

the

Check



List

## Check Collector's Round Table

Volume IV

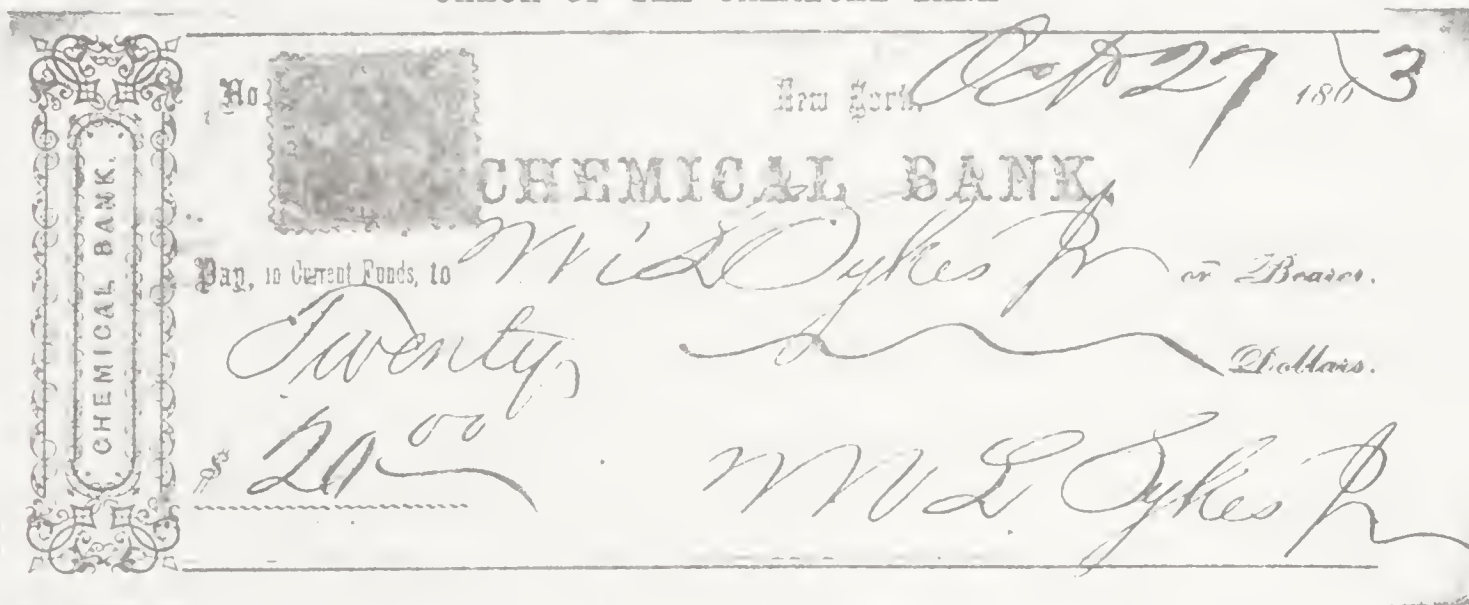
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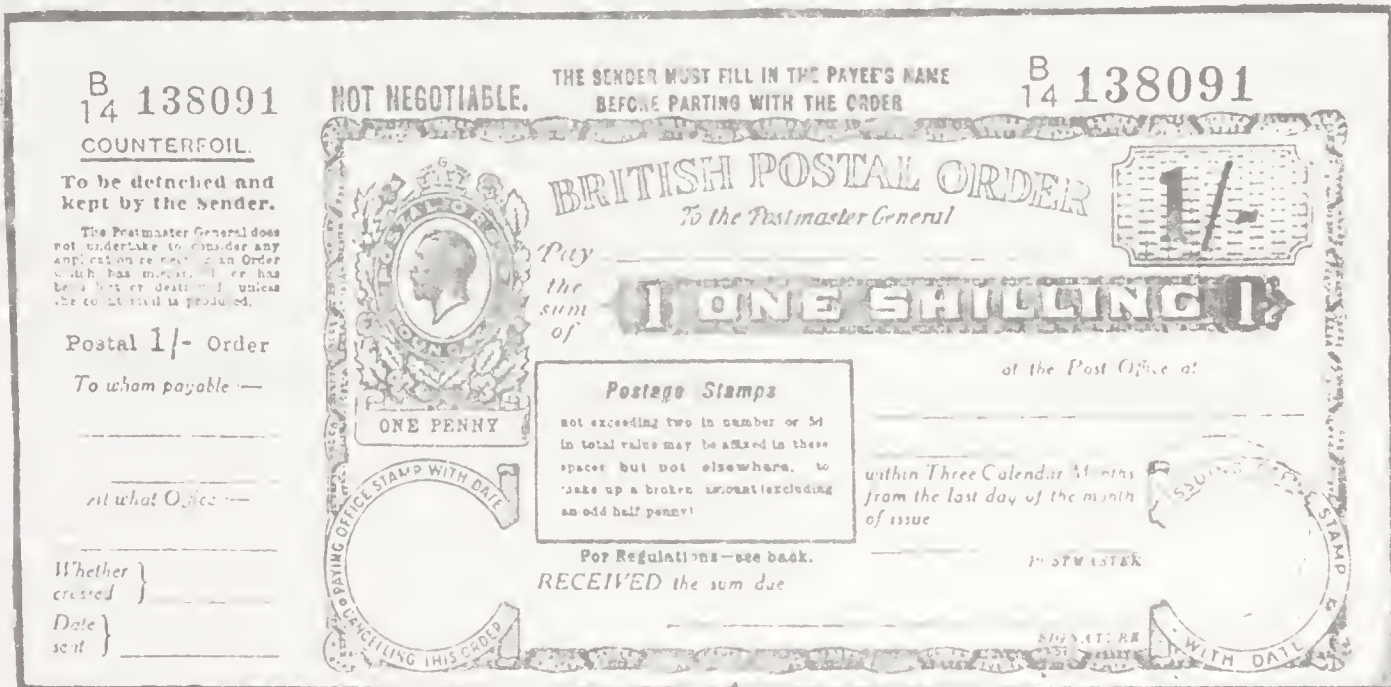
July 1973

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### CHECK OF THE CHEMICAL BANK



Ray Ekeblad tells the interesting story of how the New York Chemical Manufacturing Company became The Chemical Bank. Article and additional check illustrations begin on page 114. All checks illustrated are from the Ekeblad collection.



Collecting British Postal Orders (Part II) starts on page 127. All illustrated Postal Orders are from the Pearson collection.

July 73

C.C.R.T. AND T.C.L. INFORMATION

Membership in CCRT is open to all responsible persons upon receipt of proper dues payment and completed application form. All matters pertaining to membership and dues should be directed to the Membership Secretary.

THE CHECK LIST is issued quarterly with mailing dates as follows:  
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Advertising rates are available from the publisher. Rate sheets will be included with one issue of TCL each year.

Articles, clippings, news items and book reviews as well as comments and suggestions are solicited and always welcome.

Neither the publisher or CCRT assumes responsibility for transactions between members or members and other parties. For your protection do not send unsolicited material to anyone without first contacting the person.

The views expressed <sup>in</sup> material received and published or included as a supplement may or may not be in accord with those of the publisher or his staff.

A complete membership roster will be issued as often as deemed necessary. Supplemental rosters will be included with each issue of TCL to list new members, change of address, change of collecting interests etc. Notify your editor immediately when changes take place.

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\* It is the duty of every good citizen to use all the \*  
\* opportunities, which occur to him, for preserving \*  
\* documents relating to the history of our country. \*  
\* THOMAS JEFFERSON \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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THE CHEMICAL COMPANY

Ray E. Ekeblad (CCRT #80) 19 Edwards Lane, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542

One of the New York City banks is currently explaining in its advertising how the world's smallest chemical company became the United States' fifth largest international bank.

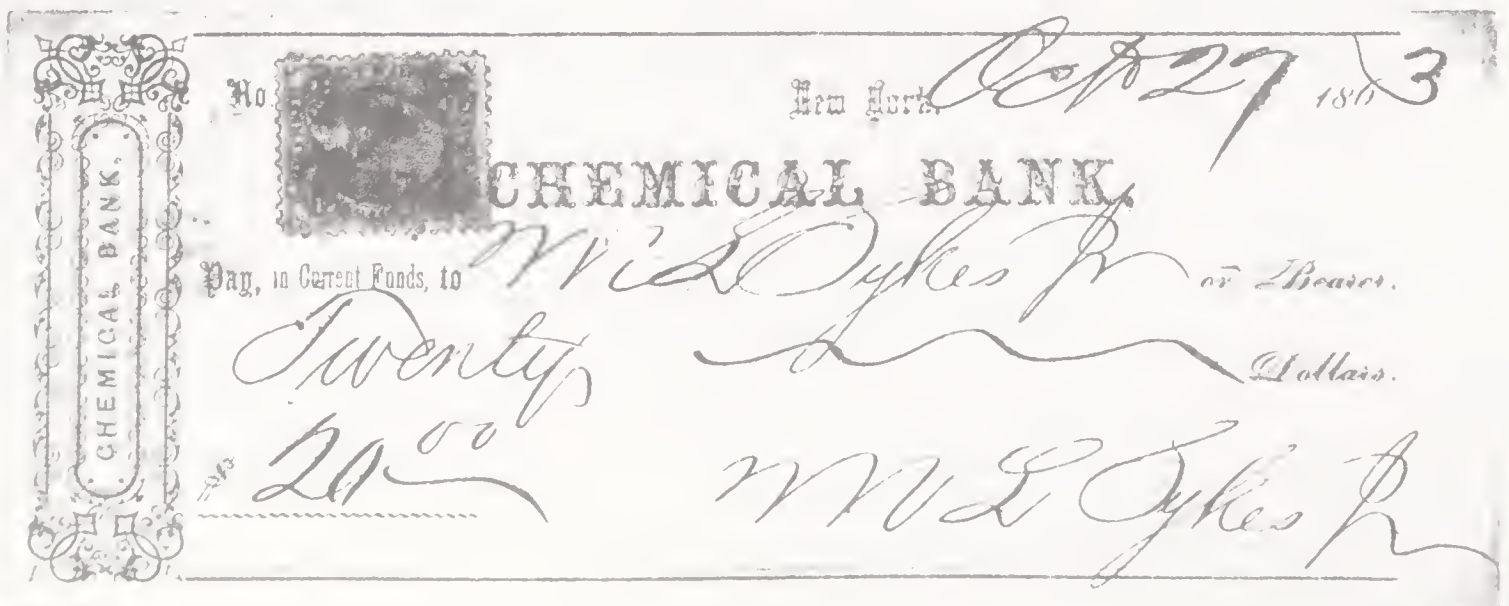
The advertisement shows a picture which looks much like a window of an old-time drug store. Large gold lettering on the window proclaims this to be the home of the New York Chemical Manufacturing Company. Displayed within are the familiar brass weighing scales and large glass vases containing those mysterious red and blue colored liquids which drug stores always seemed to have years ago. Inside the room a chemist and another man are peering intently at some material in the chemist's hand. Next to them are tables covered with bottles, vials, burners, pestle and mortar and all the other apparatus of the chemical laboratory.

What has this to do with a bank that today has over \$13 billion in total assets? Well, as the advertising text explains, the chemical company changed their formula. In 1823 people went to them for a couple of pounds of palladium. However, in 1824 the corporate charter was revised to allow the handling of bank transactions. The company's ability soon established them as a major bank and in 1844 the name of the company was changed to the Chemical Bank. All interest in handling chemicals ended!

When attending a business affair at the bank awhile ago, I noted that they had a very attractive gold seal depicting their chemical company history. Dated 1824, the year the bank began operations, the seal showed a bearded chemist sitting at a table with bellows in hand watching a smoking chemical container. Around the outside of the picture was the name of the bank.

Like some of the other large New York City banks that have been in existence for a long time, the Chemical Bank has gone through a number of organizational changes and operated under various names over the years. Since the bank has the same name today that was adopted in 1844 it is not apparent that those changes occurred.

One of the major events took place in 1865 when the bank converted from a state to a national bank necessitating a name change to comply with Federal law that all national chartered banks had to disclose this fact in their names. Illustrated below are a group of checks written shortly before and after this event.



When the next check was drawn in November 1865 the payer obviously was aware of the bank's conversion (perhaps the teller told him) as he inserted the word "National" on the check.

No. 33 — New-York, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 1865  
National  
**CHEMICAL BANK,**  
Pay to *M<sup>rs</sup> John Kelly or order* — Bearer,  
*Twenty Five* — — — — — Dollars.  
\$ 25.00  
*M. L. Sykes Jr*

The next check dated August 1866 shows that the writer had obtained the printed check form which indicated that the bank had become The National Bank of N.Y. Actually the full legal name was The Chemical National Bank of New York and operations continued under that title until 1929.

270 BROADWAY. No. 83 New-York, Aug 14 1866  
**CHEMICAL NATIONAL BANK OF N.Y.**  
Pay, in Current Funds, to *M. L. Sykes Jr* or Bearer,  
*Two hundred* — — — — — Dollars.  
\$ 200.00  
*M. L. Sykes Jr*

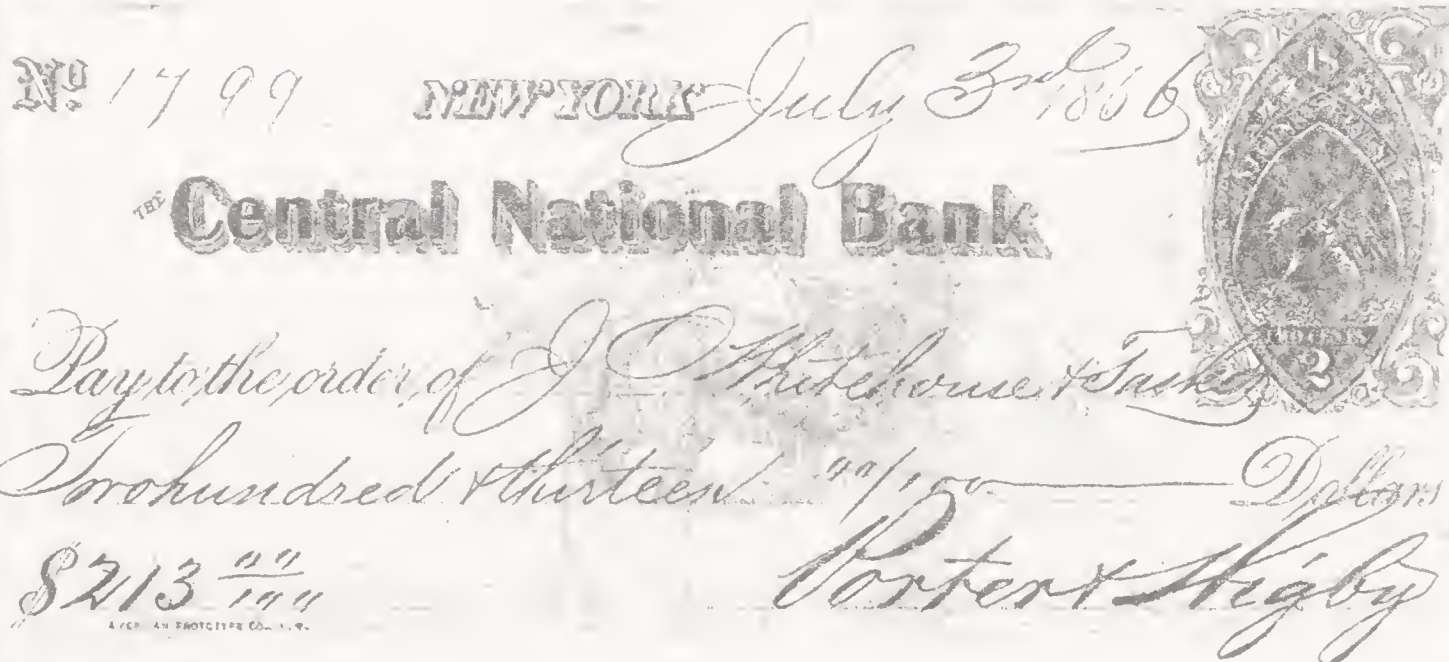
One of the aspects of collecting New York City bank checks that I find most interesting is tracking the history of these organizations and trying to find checks of the various banks that ceased to exist when they became a part of another institution. The Chemical Bank's history is relatively simple compared to that of some of the other large New York banks, but, nevertheless, a number of the early New York banking houses did help it become as large as it is today.



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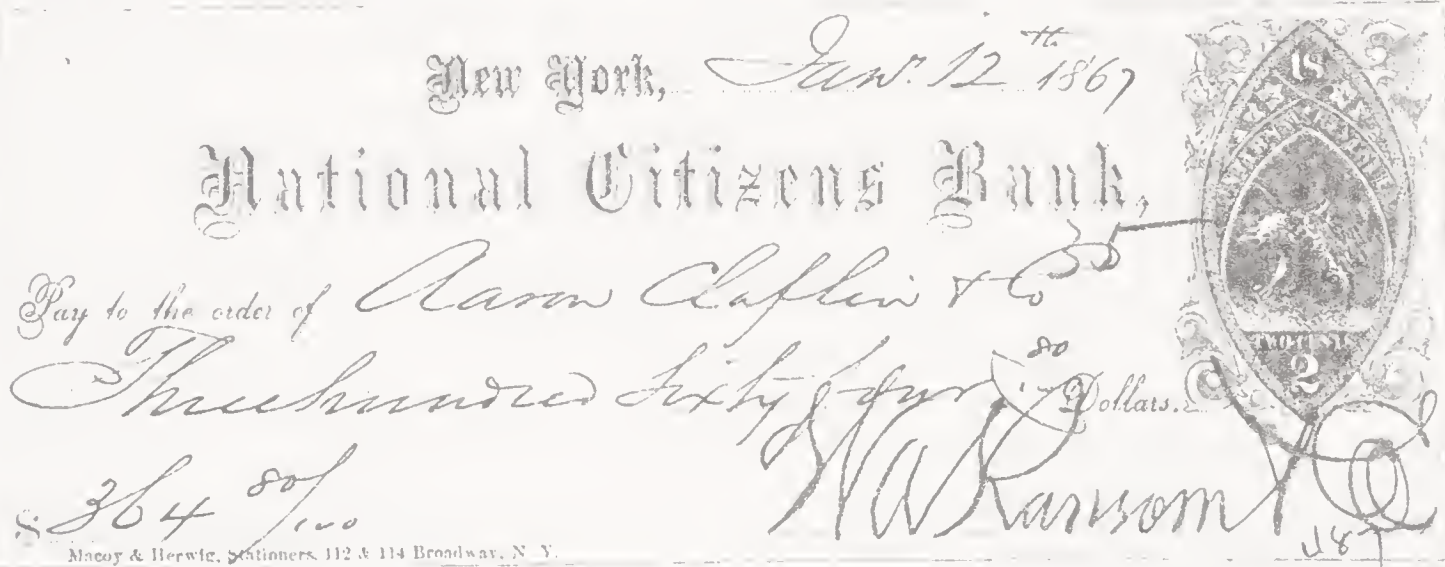
In 1920 Chemical consolidated with The Citizens National Bank of New York which had its roots in the mid 1800's and consisted of several mergers and consolidations of early New York banks. One of its parts was The Central National Bank of the City of New York chartered in 1864. Illustrated is an attractive check of that bank printed with red lettering and red RNB-10.

PORTER & HIGHBY



In 1904 that bank had merged into The National Citizens Bank of the City of New York which had been established in 1865. A colorful check with blue printing and blue RNB-3 is shown.

W. A. RANSOM & CO.



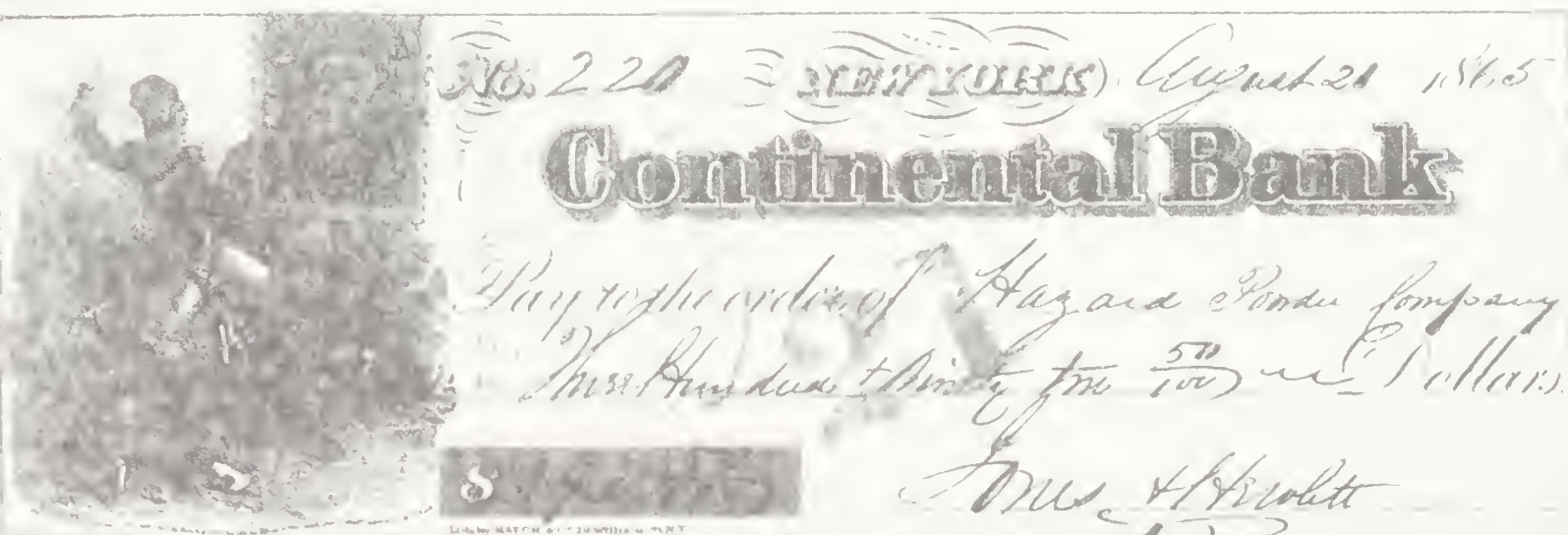
After operating under the name The Citizens Central National Bank of New York from 1904 to 1917 the bank became The Citizens National Bank of New York.

In 1929 the United States Mortgage & Trust Company which had been established in 1871 as the United States Mortgage Company merged into Chemical Bank & Trust Company, a New York corporation which succeeded The Chemical National Bank of New York. The United States Mortgage & Trust Company itself had absorbed in 1917 the Fidelity Bank established in 1900 so that bank also contributed to the growth of the Chemical organization.



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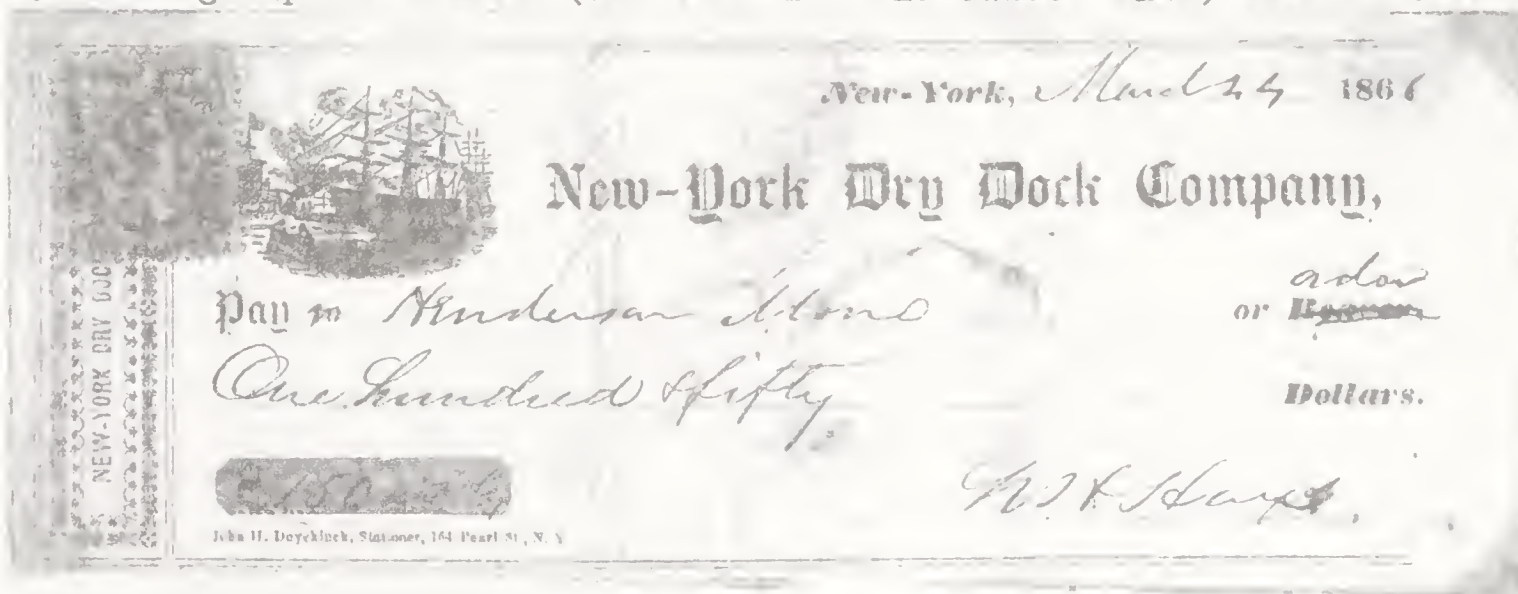
Another of New York City's early banks was the Continental Bank established in 1853. That bank which had become The Continental Bank & Trust Company of New York was absorbed by the Chemical organization in 1948. An interesting check of this banking showing Washington on horseback with some microscopic printing below showing the vignette's registration in 1857 is illustrated.



Another merger into the Chemical organization occurred in 1951 by The National Safety Bank and Trust Company of New York, a relatively young bank.

One of New York City's older banking houses was the Corn Exchange Bank established in 1853. That bank which converted in 1929 into Corn Exchange Bank Trust Company also had acquired many other New York banks before merging in 1954 into the Chemical Bank & Trust Company which thereupon changed its name to Chemical Corn Exchange Bank. Acquisitions of the Corn Exchange included the Astor Place Bank (which had previously absorbed the Empire State Bank), Eleventh Ward (which had acquired the New York Dry Dock Company), the First National Bank of Staten Island at New Brighton, the Home Bank, the Hudson River Bank of the City of New York, The Mechanics & Traders Bank of Brooklyn, Mount Morris Bank, Queens County Bank (originally the Flushing & Queens County Bank), the Stapleton National Bank, the Union Square Bank of the City of New York and The Washington Trust Company of the City of New York.

In that group the oldest (and one with the oddest name) was the New



York Dry Dock Company established in 1825. An early check of that bank with its appropriate vignette is shown on the preceding page.

The Chemical Corn Exchange Bank name didn't last long because in 1959 another of the city's major trust companies, The New York Trust Company, merged into the Chemical organization which then became the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company. The New York Trust Company originally was the New York Security & Trust Company and had grown by merger with the Fulton Trust Company of New York in 1949.

In 1969 some one hundred and forty-five years after it began operations the bank reverted to the name Chemical Bank. During this period the world's smallest chemical company did become the United States' fifth largest international bank, but the process of reaching more than \$13 billion in total assets was truly much more complex than the bank's current advertisement indicates!

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE QUESTION BOX

Lonnie Buss (CCRT #285) 1205 North Madison, Lexington, Nebraska 68850

Please note the above change in my address.

Well the questions and answers were a little slow again - where is everybody? The last week or so I have seen quite a few articles pertaining to checks in various publications I receive. I think these articles are very helpful to our hobby and I also think questions and answers appearing in this column are helpful. This feature is designed to increase and share information relative to our hobby - won't you participate? Send in your questions and answers now.

The first number of the question refers to the issue the question appears in; the second is the question number for that particular issue. Please use these numbers when answering a question.

15-1 I have a check dated November 28, 1932 that has a Federal Tax 2¢ stamp hand stamped on its right end. When was this type of taxing started and why?  
(Editor's note- this question is answered in an article in this issue.)

15-2 On a promissory note I have which is dated August 12, 1867 and payable at either bank in Bath, (?) there appears 5 of the 2¢ R6 revenue stamps. The 5 stamps are in two rows, 3 at the top and 2 underneath. Each row of stamps are still connected to each other. The amount written on the note is for \$176.00. Why were so many stamps used?

15-3 I would appreciate seeing a list of early manufacturers of check writers. What is the earliest check writer known?

### ANSWERS

14-1 In answer to the question about multiple bank names on the reverse of checks the following is offered: when a check is written a distance from home the check goes through several or more different banks to reach its home bank. As the checks pass through each different bank on their route home they are stamped with the processing bank's name.

- End -



NUMISMATICS IN AN AGE OF PAPER AND OF PLASTIC

A Presentation in Connection with the Annual Educational Forum Arranged by the Organization of International Numismatics and held at the American Numismatic Association Convention, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, Friday, August 18, 1972.

Part III Continued from page 81, April 1973 issue of T.C.L.

Where once a man would have paid with coined metal (silver or gold); where once he might have paid, alternately, with a banknote redeemable in silver or in gold, today the irredeemable folding money of his government or its central bank serves all his monetary needs, apart from small change. Or does it? I think not, and my thoughts are directed to two orders of magnitude, the rather small and the possibly quite large. At one extreme, the token has found its niche; at the other, the personal cheque now dominates. (Think of those transactions where, were you to peel off banknotes, you would arouse suspicion--of tax evasion or worse!) The lowly token, that most interesting artifact of numismatic individualism, is anything but extinct. A convenient, reusable money substitute for awkward or fractional sums, it has often, given the right circumstances, outperformed cash. The old turnpikes of Pennsylvania had their tokens. The age of automation has assured the token a new lease on life, at turnstiles, in parking meters, in the "slots" of Las Vegas. New plastics supplement metals in token manufacture, direct descendants of the vulcanites and the explosively combustible celluloids so beloved of transportation token collectors. The token is not dead. It's living and well in Canada's Maritime Provinces, I can vouch: in this day of cartons rather than bottles, the arrival of the milkman is marked, as often as not, by the clink of exotically-shaped aluminum tokens, Good for One Quart. Across the land, the subways and bus lines still contribute their share of 16 mm. and larger pieces. But the vecturists have done well by the lowly transit token: as Americana, in newsletter and catalogue the series is documented, in model fashion, for future generations. The old merchants' tokens (and their dangerous restrikes) also are in good hands, and receiving careful attention, as are the tax tokens in cardboard, fibre, metals, and wartime plastics (our only numismatic reminders that the dollar is one thousand mills), and the fibre ration tokens of World War II. So I shall shift to the other extreme, the sixty million dollars a day in government, business, and personal cheques.

We live in a society so oriented to bankbook money, the pay cheque, and the personal cheque as to give none of them a second thought. Twenty years ago, on a summer job in the payroll office of a Montreal department store, I devoted one day a week to stuffing pay envelopes, including my own, with the banknotes and coins corresponding to wages, overtime and commissions. I really did. My coin collection thrived on it. Never since have I heard of anyone being paid in cash! The cheque has become a way of life. Has anyone, you might wonder, set about systematically to study and collect cheques as a monetary form? As a charter member of Check Collectors Round Table, a thriving organization with concentrations of members in several parts of the world, let me assure you that the answer is yes. Many cheques have been appreciated for the revenue stamps embossed or attached, of course, but the systematic collecting of cheques as fiscal paper is of fairly recent origin. Cheques from the late eighteenth century are reasonably well known from both Great Britain and the United States. However, most banks are of later origin, and

(Cont'd. next page)

cheques prior to the 1860's are less than common. Indeed the mass use of cheques, and in particular of personal cheques, is a twentieth century phenomenon. Over twenty billion cheques are written in a year in the United States, and a slight majority are personal cheques. Canada presents a similar picture. But I often read English magazines, and am amazed by the advertisements, typically showing the newlyweds, pound notes protruding from the pay envelope, pondering the advantages of starting out married life with a bank account. In England, too, I gather, use of the personal cheque is encouraged and is on the increase.

Cheque collectors seem to favour older cheques with a nostalgic air, possibly a famous signature as maker or endorser, a territorial origin (if American), or a mining camp vignette. Many of these relatively older documents are most attractive. There is, here, something of a study in technology, and in fashions. Like the earliest banknotes, the earliest cheques, of practical necessity, were quite plain. From about 1870 to 1900, however, there flourished a period when elaborate lettering, the allegorical vignette, the illustrations of bank premises, the scenes depicting local commerce and industry, became perhaps the rule, resulting in some highly attractive fiscal paper. This, too, roughly coincided with the twenty-year period, commencing with the Civil War, and the three-year period, from the Spanish American War, when adhesive or imprinted revenue stamps were required on American fiscal documents, including cheques (dates were 1862-1883 and 1898-1901). Until recently, the twentieth century cheque, in this country and most others, has been distinctly plain. Accordingly, it is not surprising that in cheque collecting it is the older material that tends to capture the imagination. (This is less true with regard to the collecting of world bank notes.) Indeed, America's age of MICR, the magnetic-ink digits which encode bank and account identification and the amount and which classify a cheque as recent, opened in the sixties with the dullest, most uninteresting cheque forms of the past one hundred years. Then dawned the new era. It was Summer, 1964, and, fortuitously, I was in California, at the time, California where so many new trends have had their beginning. I vividly recall a billboard showing a checkered zebra: "I got my distinctive checks at Bank of America." The "stagecoach" cheques of Wells Fargo really started it all, this new look, but soon the banks of California, of the rest of the nation, and of Canada were outdoing each other to produce the most distinctive of personal cheques. "Scenic Americana", first of two series of eight pictorial cheques, was offered nationally by one cheque printer. A New York bank proposed cheques with the depositor's family "coat of arms" (if you paid the service charge, I gather, lack of authentic heraldic achievement became no problem!) A leading Canadian bank offered the choice of Canadian scenes, "mod" swirls, or a floral motif. The American conservationist was tempted with a set of cheques depicting, in natural colour, five endangered species. Not to be outdone, Wells Fargo produced cheques made from a sugar cane derivative, thus saving (it was asserted) eight thousand trees a year. An Oregon bank offered cheques with the depositor's picture. Banks from coast to coast appealed to civic pride with cheques depicting the local skyline or the more photogenic points of interest. Then Bank of Marin, in Marin County, California, made the papers of the United States and Canada by extending the process to its logical extreme. The depositor was provided with a "Design-a-Check" kit and let go ahead and produce his own cheque, photography, artwork, or a combination. Now, Bank of Marin cheques would be a collection in themselves! I suggest that the great diversity of pictorial cheques introduced in the past decade will remain with us, in one form or another, and should prove of at least casual interest to the

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future student of fiscal paper.

If value, today, is represented, in the main, by paper, the collector finds himself with many new and promising fields to explore. Old issues of stocks and bonds, presumably worthless, are accessible to collectors at nominal cost. At their best, they represent, for their period, the ultimate in security printing; all, in any event, offer the challenge of a story to be learned. Other forms of fiscal paper are many. Lottery tickets I collect as security printing, but the old ones can be of great historic interest and the many new issues a significant study in themselves. Food stamps and such, while not always strictly collectable (as was true with "ration evidence"), can be fascinating, both as security paper and as artifacts of initial, fumbling attempts toward, perhaps, one concept of an economic justice. Gift certificates, while promoted in many kinds of businesses, have been largely overlooked as collectable paper. This is unfortunate. Some certificates mimic banknotes: several leading Canadian series are beautifully steel engraved. Others assume the likeness of bank cheques (even to the use of a checkwriter), punch-cards, greeting cards, or (virtually) diplomas. Such merchandise certificates I collect in a modest way--as yet another accessible form of paper document of value. Like most cheque enthusiasts, I play havoc, I suspect, with the bookkeeping of any firm so misguided as to send a refund or dividend cheque for a few cents! In the whole field of official cheques, money orders, and like fiscal documents, however, one item, the travellers cheque, would seem of outstanding interest. As systematic and comparative information on this monetary form is particularly difficult to come by, I'd like to share something of what I've been able to learn.

Hindsight is surer than foresight, but the travellers cheque, as developed in or for the North American sphere of influence, has long been a natural for the collector of fiscal paper. At its finest, it offers steel engraving, classical or modern portraiture, supporting tints, fugitive inks--superb craftsmanship and, unlike many European travel cheques and most other fiscal documents, negotiability in perpetuity. The purple and sky blue of American Express is as near to a universal money as the modern world has known. Perhaps four billion dollars a year flows through national and international monetary channels, and in addition sizable sums in Canadian dollars, Sterling, Swiss francs, and Deutsche marks. The helmeted warrior on the American Express cheque must be among the best known, and certainly the most widely known, of such engravings in the history of security printing. (He appears as well on money orders and on the "Money Card", the American Express card which has consistently led the field of travel and entertainment credit cards.) The dollar cheques of two giant American banks have for some decades been leading contenders for the multibillion dollar travellers cheque market, the blue and deep yellow of Bank of America, with the stern visage of B. of A. founder A.P. Giannini, and the steel grey (now green) of New York's First National City Bank. A smaller but regionally aggressive contender for the American dollar market is Republic National Bank of Dallas with attractive blue cheques with a classical female head. Other American banks have dropped from the travellers cheque field, as far as can be determined. Mellon National Bank and Trust Company, of Pittsburgh, for example, now features the American Express cheque. (If collectors wanted negotiable examples of the interesting, older cheques, they waited too long). Thos. Cook and Son (Bankers) Ltd. (of Cook's Tours fame) issues United States dollar cheques on its New York agency. Featured is a perched American eagle and the likeness of Thomas Cook, founder of the firm. Cook's also issue sterling, rupee, and Australian dollar cheques, all (I gather)

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negotiable in perpetuity. Barclays Bank D.C.O., well known to collectors of world currency, also has dollar cheques. Recalling the remarkable if little known "African fauna" reverses of several travellers cheque series of this twelve billion dollar international banking group, American dollar cheque reverses carry a pleasing montage of United States scenes. An evident spinoff of Expo '70 in Osaka is an attractive issue of dollar cheques on The Bank of Tokyo, Ltd., New York agency. Cheques are green and generally American in their appearance: they carry a vignette of Kisshoten, "a statue which symbolizes the beauty of Japan." (For sheer beauty in security printing, a less known series, of decided oriental flavour, the free yen travellers cheques, must be seen.) Other minor issues of U.S. dollar travellers cheques do exist: Bank of New South Wales has one; Perera Express, New York, another; the Arab Bank, Beirut, still another. To the collector, or indeed to the channels of finance, these dollar issues are, one would gather, relatively obscure -- but interesting! Canadian practice in travellers cheques has essentially paralleled the American. Until a few years ago at least six banks, all national in scope, promoted their own Canadian dollar travellers cheques (Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Imperial Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada, and The Toronto-Dominion Bank), and at least one of these series (Canadian Bank of Commerce) dated from 1908. (As a matter of interest, the first travellers cheque-like document, called a circular note, was issued by Thomas Cook in 1874; the American Express travellers cheque dates from 1891, with other leading contenders entering the field somewhat later, First National City Bank in 1904, Bank of America in 1928, Republic of Dallas in 1938. Bank of Montreal, at the time the largest of Canadian banks, introduced travellers cheques early in the century, 25, 50 and 100 dollar denominations depicting the famous domed head office (as did bank notes of the period): gold convertibility assured that exchange equivalents could be confidently inscribed on each plate, including United States dollars (which were at par), Sterling, French francs, German marks, Scandinavian kroner, Italian lire and Russian roubles. Times have changed! Canadian Pacific Express at one point was issuing both American and Canadian funds cheques. The Royal Bank of Canada, which introduced its Canadian cheques in 1929, reflected its extensive Caribbean interests with an issue of West Indian dollar cheques in 1961. A travellers cheque, as understood in North America, is money you can't lose. In case of loss or theft, its prompt replacement is expected; its free negotiability implies that the issuer is going to absorb certain losses from stolen or counterfeit cheques. (The pursuit of fraud cases, of course, is relentless). From this it should be apparent why one bank after another has seen fit to discontinue its distinctive issues, whatever their prestige value, providing instead, in all likelihood, the cheques of one or more of the "big three". (And taking profits as commissions on sales rather than "float" investment; "float" representing cheques outstanding, which varies seasonally but which at any given time can add to a considerable sum). Of Canada's banks today, only one, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, actively promotes its domestic travellers cheques, an attractive series that brings a bright new look to at least some Canadian wallets and purses. Toronto-Dominion has not discontinued its cheques, to my knowledge; all other banks have. Collecting days are over. Travellers cheques do exist, of course, in many European and other currencies (including a recent addition, the Soviet rouble), but virtually all are limited in their period of ready negotiability, typically to twelve months or six months. (After such a waiting period, I gather, loss of a cheque will in general be compensated for, but only if no one has cashed it; an outstanding cheque can be redeemed, of course, but only "subject to collection" -- a far cry from such North American promises as

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"immediate refund if stolen, lost, or destroyed"! Canceled and specimen travellers cheques do come on the numismatic market, and this material appears to have a definite following, particularly in the British Isles.

One category of fiscal paper which, to my belief, is wholly untouched by the collector<sup>or</sup> today is the money order, in particular those non-bank issues which are of such national and regional importance in this country (see Notes).

Money, in an age of paper and of plastic. Plastic, of course, is primarily the credit card, which began as the metal "service token" of perhaps seventy years ago, entered the post-war economy as the pasteboard charge card of an oil company or department store or as the metal chargeplate of one or more retail establishments. The chargeplate could imprint, an important step towards automation. The plastic card, with raised letters and numerals and white signature panel, followed subsequently. Three "T & E" cards (travel and entertainment) rapidly and vigorously established themselves after 1950, American Express, Diners Club, Carte Blanche. Oil company cards proliferated. Transportation companies introduced their own cards, especially airlines. Hotel chains began to offer cards. Retail establishments encouraged the "house card". A major breakthrough came, however, when banks entered the credit card field, Bank Americard, Master Charge, Unicard, and numerous smaller plans. A computer age suggests logical directions for increased automation. My Master Charge, on a venerable New England bank (First of Boston), has across the back a magnetically encoded strip, rather like a length of recording tape. Were I to insert the card in a slot outside one of the banks branches, punch my secret six-digit number, and extend my hand, I would be given automatically fifty dollars in cash, and a computer would debit my account fifty dollars. Such technology, once science-fiction, is becoming increasingly commonplace. In the transportation field, for example, automated gates and turnstiles respond to tickets and passes quite unlike anything in conventional vectorist holdings. Much of this new technology has an Orwellian side, a "Big Brother" potential in its automated retrieval; but, then, 1984 is a little more than eleven years away! To the interested numismatist, the unanswered question must be, "In a monetary sense, where can, and where will, such technology lead?"

One partial answer is apparent. Computer efficiencies are likely to short-circuit much of the traditional in fiscal transactions; "electronic money" may do away with much paper, even as paper, in its turn, eliminated much handling, counting, weighing, and testing of precious metal. At the present state of technology, preauthorized debits and credits in banking offer a prime illustration. According to some within the industry, even the stock certificate, in all its intaglio finery, is living on borrowed time.

Hence, we progress . . . from coin balance, that most delightful of numismatic antiques, to counterfeit detector, invariably a most fascinating contemporary work, to credit card hotline (within but a few generations); then, very possibly, to "Big Brother" computer, which monitors all.

Numismatics is a venerable study; in a sense, one might think, a timeless one. Yet, in some future perspective of twenty-five or more centuries, surely no century will be, to the student of monetary forms, as remarkable as this, the twentieth. We're dealing not with fads and fashions in money, but with fundamental changes in concept. If our interest, or a part of our interest, in numismatics is money of today, then we must

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so orient our thoughts. Gold and silver are out; paper and plastic and electronics are in: we'll not, I suspect, feel the heavy substantiality of gold or hear the jingle and the ring of coined silver, in any nation's spending money henceforth. This fact, some of us may want our interests and collections to reflect.

#### NOTES

The address of Experiments in Art and Technology is Automation House, 49 East 68th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

The transportation token group, the American Vecturist Association, may be contacted through Rev. John M. Coffee, Jr., Editor, The Fare Box, P.O. Box 1204, Boston, Mass. 02104. Mailing address for the Merchant Token Collectors Association is P.O. Box 176, Richmond Beach, Wash. 98160. Membership Secretary of Check Collectors Round Table is Larry Adams, 969 Park Circle, Boone, Iowa 50036.

Information made available by Federal Reserve Bank of Boston gives as a partial listing of non-bank issuers of money orders: United States Postal Service; American Express Company; Traveler's Express Company, a subsidiary of Greyhound Bus Corporation; Republic Money Orders, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic National Bank of Dallas; U.S.N. Co., Inc. no longer an affiliate of U.S. Navigation Corporation; Nationwide Money Orders, Inc., issued by Nationwide Check Corporation of Baltimore; Victoria Money Orders, issued by a subsidiary of Victoria Bank and Trust, Victoria, Texas; Consumers Money Orders, issued by Continental Telephone Company of St. Louis; Mobile Check Exchange of Mobile, Alabama; Workers' Credit Union, Fitchburg, Massachusetts; Convenient Check Corporation, Trenton, New Jersey; and National Money Order Company, Downey, California. Apart from the Postal Service, American Express and Traveler's Express are considered the largest such issuers of money orders, in 1970 accounting for between 70,000, 000 and 75,000,000 and 44,000,000 money orders, respectively.

The author may be contacted at Nova Scotia Teachers College, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The help of American Bank Note Company, of named producers of United States dollar travellers cheques (and of others in the industry) and of a number of America's leading students of fiscal paper, is gratefully acknowledged.

#### POSTSCRIPT

One distinctive advantage to a prepared text in a popular numismatic presentation is the opportunity it affords for "second thoughts", minor modifications and elaborations between the delivery of the paper and the time that a copy is deposited with the club library or offered for publication or distribution. From members of the blue-ribbon audience assembled for its Educational Forum by the Organization of International Numismatics at the American Numismatic Association 81st Annual Convention in New Orleans, I learned much in the hours of informal discussion which followed the presentation of my paper, "Numismatics in an Age of Paper and of Plastic", and the benefits of this extended dialogue have been incorporated into the final version of the paper. Further, as they say in education, "You don't really know your subject until you've taught it." The preparation and presentation of such a numismatic lecture serves to sharpen and focus one's thoughts and to encourage reflection in the light of discussion. Such reflection leads me to a number of observations which it would seem appropriate to record and share at this point.

(Cont'd. next page)



One observation concerns tokens, and the end of an era. Tokens still are very much with us, as I pointed out. They continue in many of their traditional roles--for tolls, fares, premiums, dairy purchases. Occasionally, too, they find a new niche in a changing world, where they proceed to flourish across the nation. Parking gate (and parking meter) tokens and car wash tokens, commonplace today but something the age of the "Model T" could not have imagined, are excellent examples. Close to home, more traditional tokens are what I encounter. "G.A. Cook & Co. / $\frac{1}{2}$ lb./ check/Halifax, N.S." is a particularly interesting piece which I recently acquired in a Halifax shop. I look forward to a leisurely session with old directories, for the firm is out of business and not even our coin enthusiasts can tell me what G.A. Cook sold by the half pound. "Jordan's Dairy / Kentville /N.S. ... Good for / 1 / Quart / Milk" reads a scalloped, aluminum piece acquired the other evening at a Wolfville, N.S. dairy. An obliging dairy worker traced the series of successions whereby the Jordan interests became a part of a major Halifax area dairy, and scrounged through a cluttered desk for several additional pieces, of undoubted antiquarian charm. My reason for particular mention of these tokens is that, in one important sense, they soon will be decidedly dated. With few realizing it, Canada rapidly is approaching the end of an era. There still will be dairy tokens, of course, although fewer (more milk is being bought at supermarkets) and fewer varieties (throughout the industry, consolidation is marked). But they will be denominated in litres, and not in half gallons, quarts, and pints. (Correspondingly, any pound denominations will need restatement in kilogrammes.) Canada is "going metric", and with nary a backward glance. Looking to a ten-year total changeover, Canada's packaging industry already has made marked initial strides. "Quarts" and "pounds" soon will "date" a token as pre-conversion just as surely as a pence denomination dates an early Canadian merchant token.

Canada's first "litre" milk token, accordingly, can't be too many years away.

Perhaps the best analogy, certainly the most colourful, is to be found in the rainbow of plastic transit tokens produced of late for municipal corporations of Great Britain. Richly adorned in heraldry, these lowly tokens carry, almost invariably, a pricetag in large digits-- "6 d", say, if the issue antedates "Decimalization day"; otherwise, "2 $\frac{1}{2}$  new pence" or "2 $\frac{1}{2}$  p". An interesting Glasgow Corporation piece, of bright purple plastic, incorporates both "before" and "after" values, at Britain's official rate of conversion.

"The single most interesting abstraction the mind of man has ever been able to invent" is one literary characterization of money. For that "interesting abstraction", the march into the computer age apparently continues. Not many months ago I accompanied a group of college students on an evening tour of the Royal Bank of Canada regional data centre in Halifax. There, a day's banking business at branch level concluded, cheques and vouchers from many miles around are assembled and processed, computer operators working well into the night. The pace is startling. They tell the story of an unsophisticated bank employee who cashed a cheque at a branch of a competitor bank the afternoon before pay day. Her salary would automatically be credited to her account with the new day, so she gave no thought to sufficiency of funds. But times have changed. Her cheque was recorded on the computer tape of the competitor bank. Tapes were exchanged in the evening hours. Her account was debited before midnight, and found to be out of funds. The other day's mail brought my new "Money Card" from American Express. Across the back

(Cont'd. next page)

appears the now almost familiar brown magnetic strip--for what "electronic money" use I know not, but the potential clearly is there.

I shall conclude my remarks as I began them--in a New Orleans context. Amid kaleidoscopic recollections of riverboats and tramcars, bayous and graveyards and the many facets of the undeniably colourful French Quarter, let me focus on the Convention. The largest of annual gettogethers within the worldwide numismatic fraternity is, first and foremost, a learning experience. One sees numismatic displays of the first rank, of course. There is education, too, in the browsing at bourse tables. But basically, like A.N.A. and O.I.N. themselves, the Convention is people . . . a totality of ideas, of interests, of enthusiasm. I firmly believe that my best investment in numismatics (quite some years ago) was my A.N.A. membership, followed, on selling my first major numismatic article, by life membership. Within A.N.A. I particularly like the outward-looking, international flavour of O.I.N. What I value most is the opportunity to learn and to grow--through interaction with others. As we talk of money of the future (where there is so much to be learned) and of numismatics of the future, I feel that to be a most appropriate concluding thought.  
(Concluded)

\* \* \* \* \*

More On - REVENUE STAMPS ON CHECKS

Harmon M. Weeks (CCRT #83) Box 623, New Rockford, North Dakota 58356

In the past there has been some discussion concerning the termination date of the tax on bank checks. Some very strong evidence was given in the April 71 TCL by Jack Weaver and R.K. Richards that the tax really was not ended on July 1, 1882 as believed, but continued until possibly July 1, 1883.

I have been checking into this matter for some time now, and although there doesn't seem to be very much detailed information available, I have located a couple of sources which I am sure can be relied upon. One is "The Financial History of the United States" by Davis Rich Dewey which was written in 1902, and the other one is "Taxes in the United States Under the Internal Revenue System 1791-1895" by Frank C. Howe and published in 1896.

Both of these books clearly state that the tax on bank checks was ended by the Revenue Act of March 3, 1883, which went into effect July 1, 1883.

Howe says that the Revenue Act of July 1, 1862 set the tax on bank checks at two cents on checks in excess of twenty dollars. This was changed by the Act of June 30, 1864 to two cents on checks in excess of ten dollars. After that the only information given was that minor changes were made from time to time. Evidently sometime shortly after 1864 the tax must have been changed to include all checks, as there are many checks with stamps that were written for smaller amounts than ten dollars.

An idea of the number of checks that were written in those days can be gained from the fact that the revenue produced by the tax for the fiscal year of 1882 amounted to 2,318,000 dollars.

I am still searching for more information on this subject. -Ø-

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Do any of you Revenuers have further comments or information?



# COLLECTING BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS

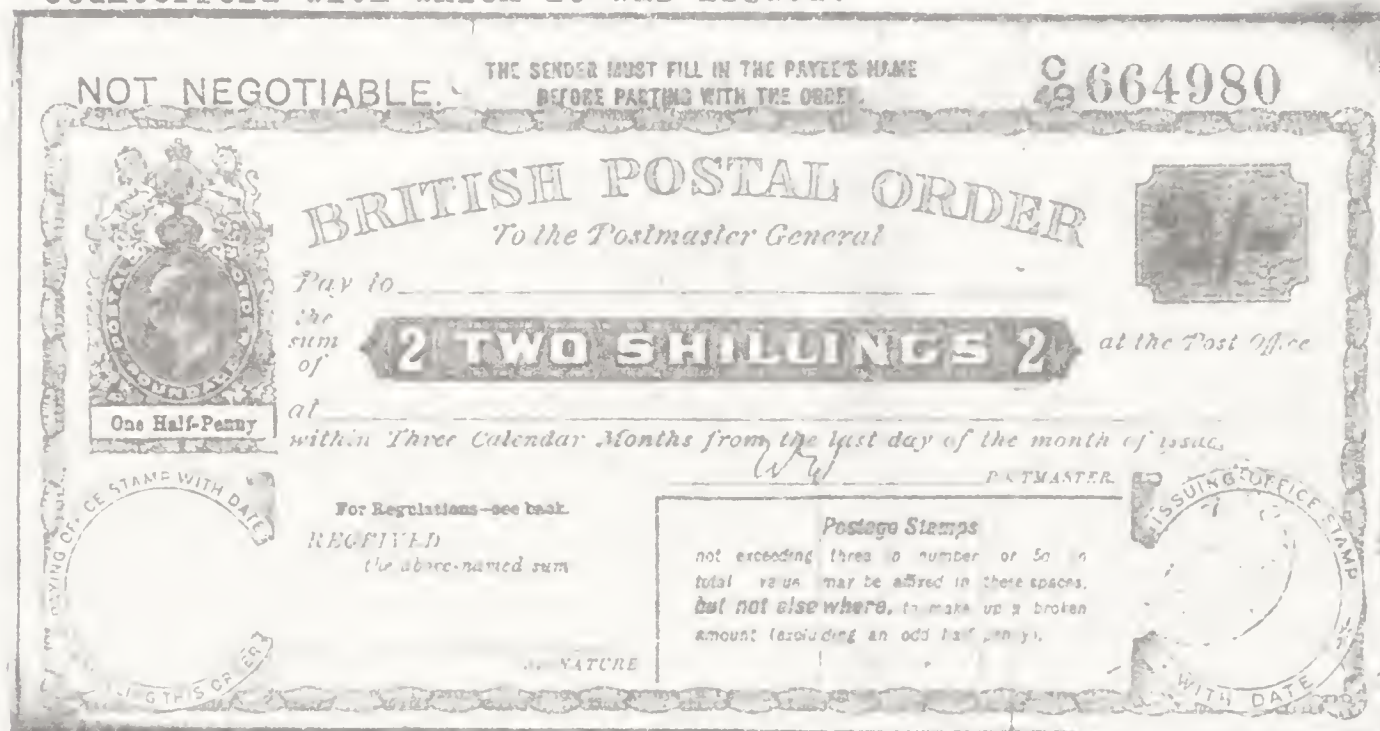
Vincent Pearson, 39 Skipton Ave., Southport, Lancashire PR9 8JP,  
England  
(Copyright)

PART TWO (Continued from January 1973 issue of T.C.L.)

## FOURTH ISSUE JULY 1, 1903

The new issue of 1903 was the first to bear a vignette other than that of Queen Victoria the reigning monarch now being King Edward 7th. This was also the first year that the counterfoil was introduced.

Illustration 1, shows the 1903 King Edward 7th Postal Order, it must be noted that this Order has lost its counterfoil with which it was issued.



Ill. #1

These orders complete with counterfoils were printed on a special machine with a perforating device to facilitate the separation of the counterfoil from the Order. The counterfoils (Ill. #3) were issued as a means of proof of ownership in case of loss or theft and since 1903 the Postmaster-General would not consider any application for an Order that had been lost or stolen unless the counterfoil was produced.

Orders were now printed on a machine which was capable of printing ten at a time whereas before only eight Orders at a time were possible, 1903 was the first year that Orders were printed on the reverse side all previous being blank, this was changed when it was decided to print the regulations on the reverse. Due to an increase in demand the number of different denominations was increased by 26 new values over the year, this brought the total number of values issued up to 40 by October 1903, the values available as of October 1903 were as follows:

6d 1/- 1/6 2/- 2/6 3/- 3/6 4/- 4/6 5/- 5/6 6/- 6/6 7/- 7/6 8/- 8/6  
9/- 9/6 10/- 10/6 11/- 11/6 12/- 12/6 13/- 13/6 14/- 14/6 15/- 15/6  
16/- 16/6 17/- 17/6 18/- 18/6 19/- 20/- 21/-.



FIFTH ISSUE, NOVEMBER 1905

The year 1905 saw a number of changes in the design of the Orders, since 1884 it had been permissible to affix Postage Stamps with a value not exceeding five-pence to the face of the Order although no particular space had been provided for this purpose, with the new issue three spaces were provided for the stamps and these spaces were the only place where it was now permissible for the stamps to be affixed, the reason for the spaces was to prevent frauds being committed by placing the stamps over the words representing the amount of the Order.

Previously all values of the Orders were printed in blue on white paper but with the new issue all Orders of a value 10/- and upwards were now printed in red, as a further measure against fraud the Orders now had the amount of the value printed in black figures in the right hand top corner. A new value was added to the range for 19/6 which now brought the total number of different values issued up to 41, this was the highest number of values ever to be issued.

PAYMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS THROUGH A BANK

Once an Order has been crossed payment will only be made through a bank, if the name of a particular banker has been added then payment will only be made at the stated bank.

As previously stated any person into whose hand a lost or stolen Order should fall has no right whatsoever to the value of it and this also applies to a banker. Bankers who collect Postal and Money Orders for their customers are protected against the true owner by the Post Office Act of 1908, as a general rule however a banker can not avail himself of the protection the Act affords because he credits the Order before actually receiving payment, whereas to obtain the protection the Act affords the banker, in absence of an express arrangement between the banker and the Postmaster-General to the contrary, should not credit the Order as cash until after the Order has been examined at the head office, if he does so and should the Order prove to be stolen the banker then becomes liable to the true owner for conversion.

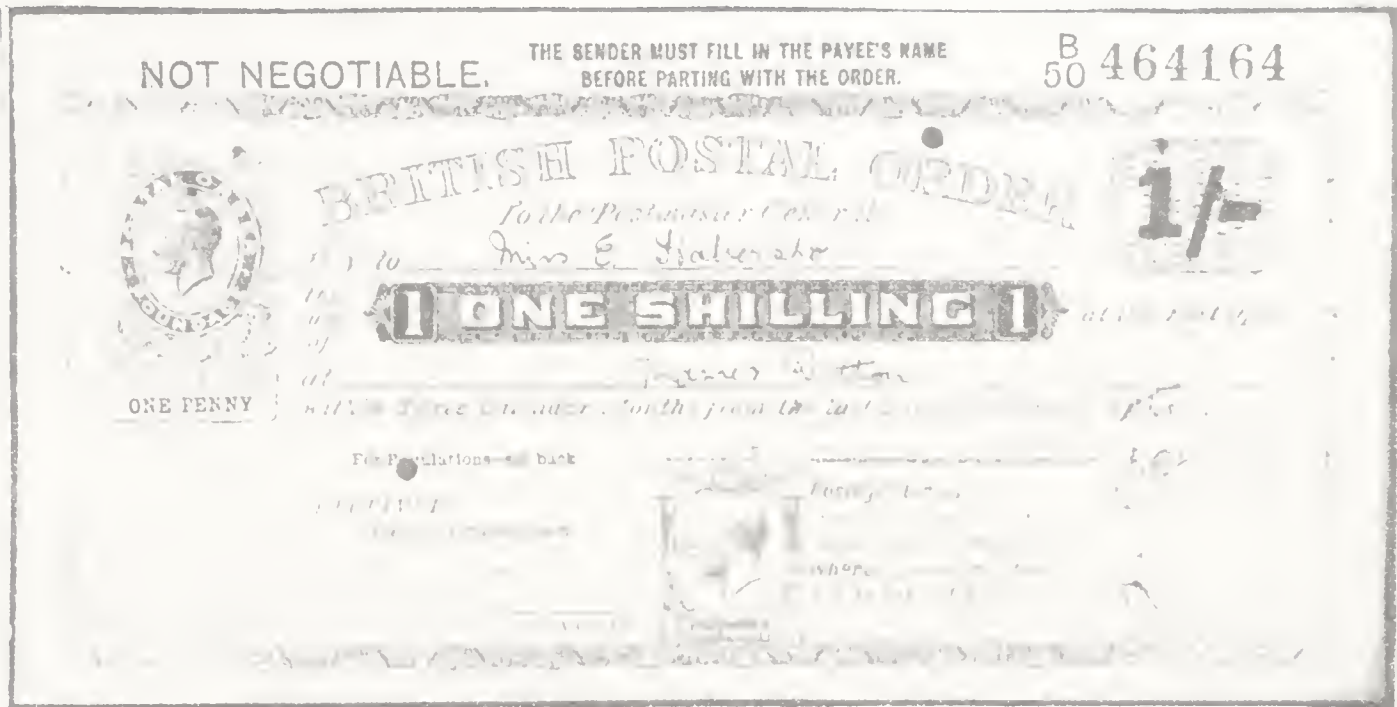
It must also be noted that the encashment of these Orders is only provisional since under Post Office regulations the post office can return any Order to the presenting bank, if at a later date it is found to be irregular and the bank must then refund the money.

SIXTH ISSUE, 1911

With the death of King Edward 7th, a new issue of Postal Order was issued bearing the vignette of King George 5th. Illustration 2 shows the design of this Order, the size of this issue without counterfoil was 169 x 84 mm. (Ill. #2 - top of next page)

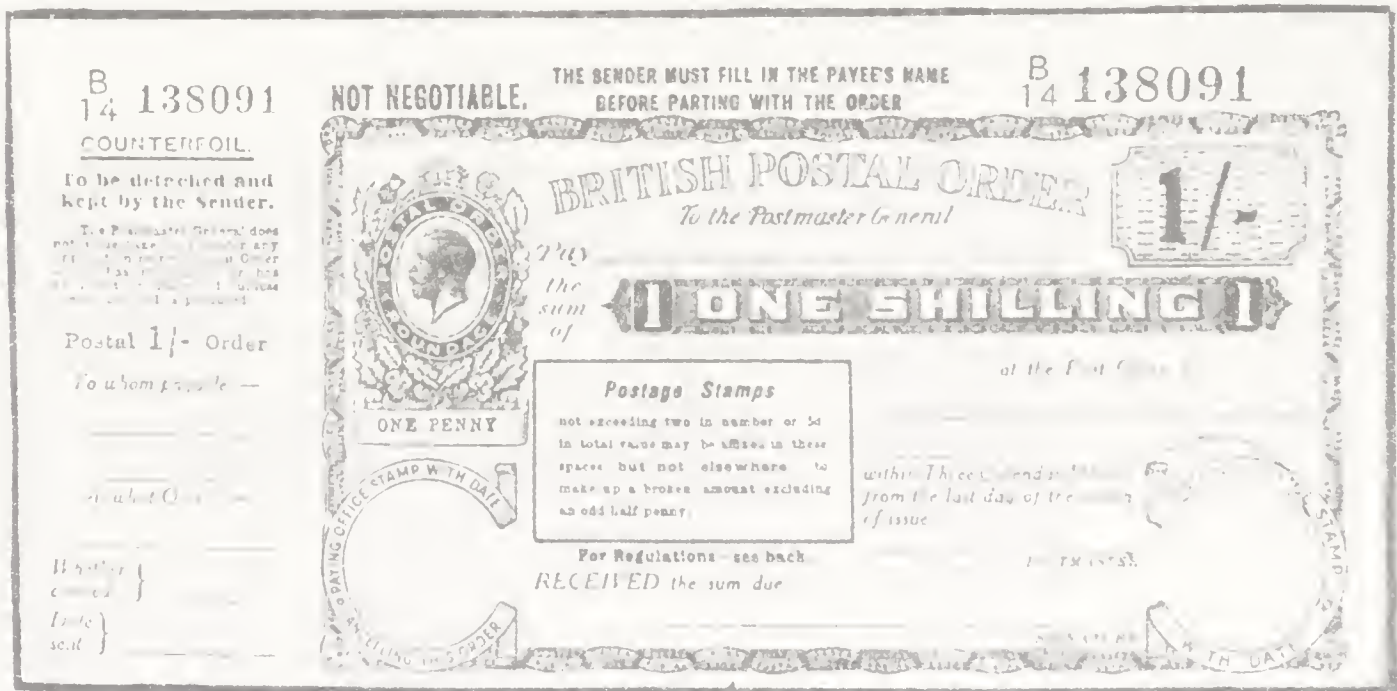
In 1926-27 it was decided to reduce the size of the Orders, the new size even complete with the counterfoil was 176 x 85mm, all existing stocks of the large size Orders were used up, illustration 2 shows that stocks were still being used up as late as 1929.





Ill. #2

Illustration 3 shows the new reduced size Postal Order of 1926-27, apart from the size the new Order was pretty much the same except for the removal of the postage stamp spaces from the right to the left hand side. The watermark was completely changed with only the letters G.R. surmounted with a crown, the number of spaces for the stamps was reduced from three to two although the total value which could be added remained the same, being up to Five-pence on Orders up to 4/6, and Eleven-pence on Orders above that amount. All issued Orders bear serial numbers in the top right corner, the illustrations of the Victorian issues shown in part one are without numbers, this is due to those Orders being Specimen issues.



Ill. #3

The Poundage rate payable from 1906 to 1939 remained as follows:  
 Half-penny on values from 6d to 2/6.  
 One-penny " " " " 3/- to 15/-.  
 Three Half pence " " " 15/6 to 21/-.



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## POSTAL ORDERS USED AS BANK-NOTES

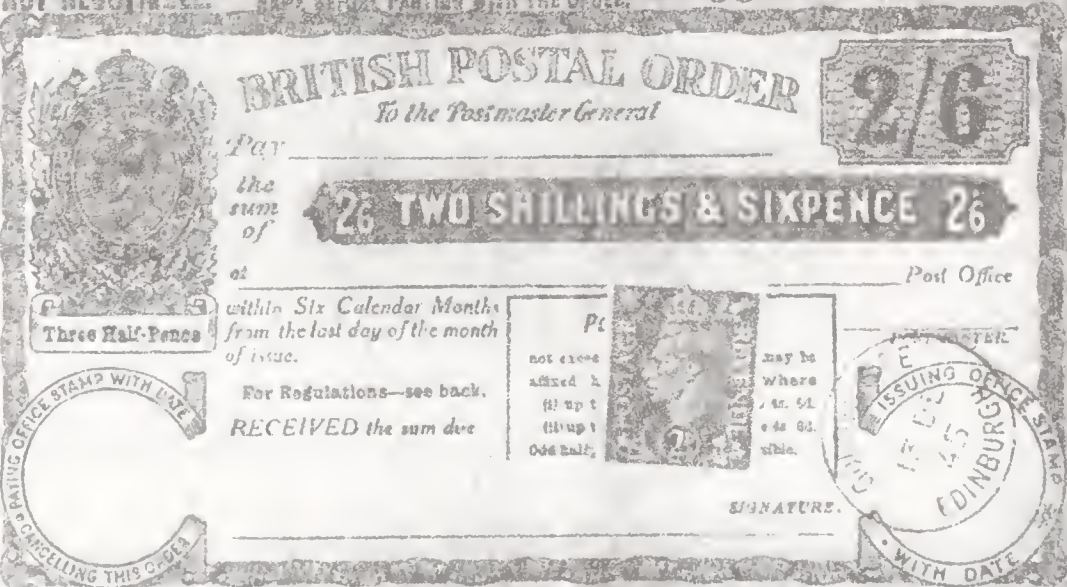
Owing to a shortage of bank-notes caused by the start of the World War I with Germany, postal orders through the Currency and Bank-Notes Act were made legal tender from August 7, 1914 through to February 3, 1915, fears that the Orders might be used as currency had once delayed the start of the Postal Order system, now with the blessing of the Government the orders during the currency period were payable in legal tender coin through the Bank of England at its face value. During this period the Poundage charges were abolished as was the validity of the order, the words "Not Negotiable" although still printed on the order were overruled. Due to the Second World War, Postal Orders were again made legal tender from September 3, 1939 and remained so until December 10, 1939.

## BOOKS OF ORDERS

On November 1, 1935, special books each containing 12 Orders per book were issued at special reduced poundage rates of three-pence per book, six different books were available, one for 6d, 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 2/6, plus one book containing three of each of the following values, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 2/6. By March 1939 the issue of these books had ceased due to the lack of public demand and all remaining stocks were destroyed.

On the night of January 28, 1936, King George 5th died, the next in line to the throne was King Edward 8th, although postage stamps were printed and used, no Postal Orders bearing his vignette were ever issued or printed. A small number of coins did get into circulation and are now very rare collectors pieces. Although he was proclaimed King, he remained uncrowned, this was due to his affair with an American woman, Wallis Simpson, a twice divorced woman. The Government stated that the people of Great Britain would not accept a divorced woman as Queen, due to this, the King was given the choice of the woman he loved or the throne. On the night of December 10, 1936, the King announced on the radio that he had abdicated in favour of his brother rather than lose the woman he loved. After his marriage the ex King was given the title of, H.R.H. Duke of Windsor and spent most of the rest of his life in exile from the country of his birth. The Duke died in 1972 after which his body was flown home to lie in state before burial, a rather sad ending to a great man.

## SEVENTH ISSUE, 1938.

8 3C 491175	NOT NEGOTIABLE. THE SENDER MUST FILL IN, IN INK, THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER.	8 3C 491175
COUNTERFOIL		
To be detached and kept by the Sender.		
The Postmaster General does not undertake to consider any application respecting an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.		
Postal 2/6 Order		
To whom payable:—		
At what Office:—		
Whether crossed } Date } sent }		
		



In 1938 the first orders bearing the vignette of King George 6th were issued, apart from the different vignette and the removal back to the right hand side of the postage stamp spaces, there was little change design-wise. The validity period of the Order was now raised from three months to six. (See illustration #4)

### SEPTEMBER 3, 1939

All forty-one values are declared currency from September 3 to December 20th, 1939. This was also the last year that forty-one different values were issued, as on December 21, the number was cut down to twenty-seven, the following values were deleted:

5/6, 6/6, 8/6, 9/6, 10/6, 11/6, 12/6, 13/6, 14/6, 15/6, 16/6, 17/6, 18/6, 19/6.


The same year also saw an increase in the total value of stamps that could be added to the Order, this was raised to Eleven-pence on all Orders with a value above 4/6d.

1951 was the last year for printing of orders for Seven shillings and Sixpence but the first year for the new Two-Pound order which was now the highest value issued on which Four-pence poundage was payable.

### EIGHTH ISSUE. OCTOBER 22, 1956.

Illustration 5 shows the first issue bearing the head vignette of the present reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth 2nd. The same year saw the introduction of three new values for £3, £4 and £5. The new issues were printed in green and it was then decided to print all orders of a £1 and over in green. With the three new orders there were now thirty values available as follows:

5d 1/- 1/6 2/- 2/6 3/- 3/6 4/- 4/6 5/- 6/- 7/- 8/- 9/- 10/- 11/- 12/- 13/- 14/- 15/- 16/- 17/- 18/- 19/- 20/- 21/- £2 £3 £4 £5.

<b>36</b> <b>4A</b> <b>866931</b> <b>COUNTERFOIL</b> To be detached and kept by the Sender.  The Postmaster General will not consider any application in respect of an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.  Postal <b>6<sup>d</sup></b> Order To whom payable  At what Office  Whether crossed Date sent	<b>Not Negotiable</b>   <b>POUNDAGE</b> <b>TWO PENCE</b>  <b>BRITISH POSTAL ORDER</b> To the Postmaster General  Pay the sum of <b>SIX PENCE</b> at <b>SIX</b> within Six Calendar Months from the last day of the month of issue For Regulations see back <b>RECEIVED</b> the sum due Signature	<b>SENDER MUST FILL IN PAYEE'S NAME (IN INK) BEFORE PARTING WITH ORDER</b> <b>86 866 931</b> <b>4A</b>  <b>6<sup>d</sup></b>  <b>POSTAGE STAMPS</b> not exceeding two in number must be affixed here but not more than: (i) up to 5d for orders up to 4/- (ii) up to 11d for orders up to 45/- Out of this amount the sum due must be paid
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Ill. #5

The 1966 series (Ill. #5) was the last to have the reigning monarch's head vignette under the crown and surrounded by laurel leaves; all the latter issues have just the head in a box, (Ill. #6). In 1966 the once best selling value, six-pence, was withdrawn as there was no longer a use for such a low value, this reduced the number of values

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to twenty-nine. Prior to 1905 all Orders were drawn on a particular postmaster and from 1905 to 1969 they were drawn on the Postmaster-General, and since 1969 they have been drawn on the Post Office.


### NINTH ISSUE. DUAL CURRENCY ORDER, ISSUED DURING 1970

Due to the impending changeover from the old L.s.d. currency to the new decimal currency, all orders now appeared in dual currency. Illustration 6 shows an order for One-Shilling also 5p, the Poundage was stated as 3d/1p; the dual orders were issued in values of 1/- to 19/- also 5p to 95p. Postage stamps two in number with a value up to Eleven-pence were now allowed on any order irrespective of value.

### TENTH ISSUE. FEBRUARY 15, 1971.

Twenty-eight different denominations of decimal currency orders were issued in the following values:

5p 7½ 10 12½ 15 17½ 20 22½ 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95p  
£1 £2 £3 £4 £5.

90512 756816	NOT NEGOTIABLE	SENDER MUST FILL IN PAYEE'S NAME (IN INK) BEFORE PARTING WITH ORDER	BRITISH POSTAL ORDER
COUNTERFOIL	To the Post Office	PAY	ONE SHILLING
To be detached and kept by the Sender		AT (Post Office)	1/- 5p Poundage 3d/1p
This counterfoil should be produced if any enquiry or claim is made in respect of the order		Within six months from last day of month of issue	
1. POSTAL ORDER		RECEIVED	
To whom payable		Signature	
At what Office		POSTAGE STAMPS	
Whether crossed		One or two may be put here up to the value of elevenpence or four new pence (no odd halfpennies)	
Date sent			

Ill. #6

Poundage on decimal orders was 2½p (6d) on all values from 5p to £1, and 5p on values from £2 to £5.

The new Orders no longer state the amount of poundage payable, also due to advice from the Post Office Solicitor, (reason unknown) the charge made for the issue of an order is no longer referred to as "Poundage" but the word "Fee" is used instead. Due to decimalization the old Guinea (21/-) order was withdrawn. Postage stamps, two in number and up to 4½p can now be affixed to all values.

The colours of the new orders are as follows: 5p up to 45p - blue, 50p up to 95p - red, £1 up to £5 - green.

Although the bank cheque is widely used in Britain today, the use of the Postal Order still continues to flourish, maybe due to the fact that there is still a distrust of placing one's money in the bank. Many people still prefer to hide their cash in the house, the result being that not having a bank account, the payee can not obtain his money from a crossed cheque unless someone can be found who is willing to give cash for it, however with an order made payable to the payee and



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Jul. 7

being uncrossed, leave the payee with a choice of 21,000 Post Offices in Great Britain in which to obtain payment.

Due to the length of this article it has been decided to leave the write-up on the Imperial Postal Order Service until a later date.

Grateful acknowledgements to the Post Office for their confirmation of certain details.

\* \* \* \* \*



### W A N T E D

AMERICAN NOTES AND STOCK CERTIFICATES, ISSUED BY RAILROAD AND STREETCAR COMPANIES. ALSO CHECKS, RECEIPTS, WARRANTS, BILLS OR ANY DOCUMENTS WITH VIGNETTES OF LOCOMOTIVES AND STREETCARS.

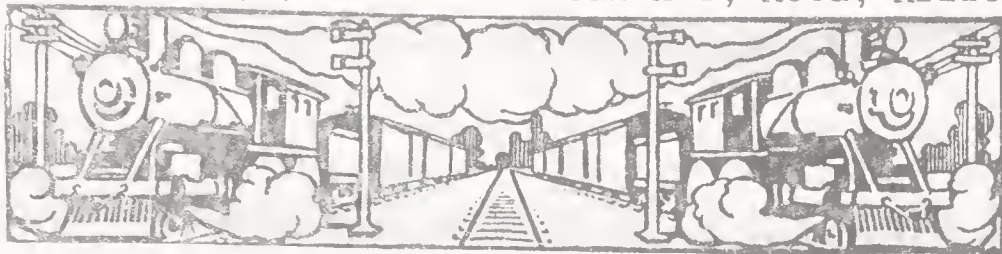
ALSO REQUIRED...ANY COINS, STAMPS OR BONDS WITH VIGNETTES OF OLD PAPER STRAINERS AND BANK NOTES.

WILLIAM WILSON, 55 CHURCH AVE.,  
CONVENT, LONDON SWP, ENGLAND

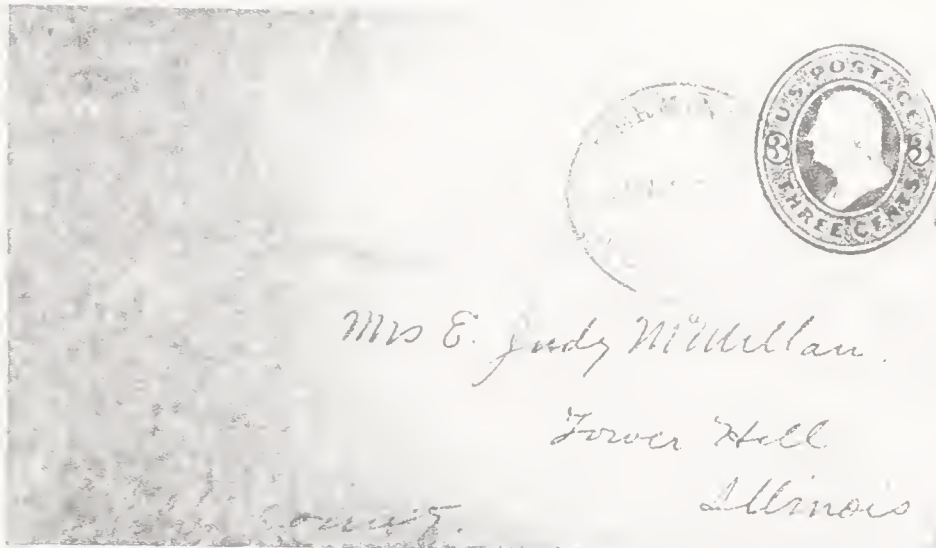
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TERMINUS POST OFFICE IDAHO and MONTANA

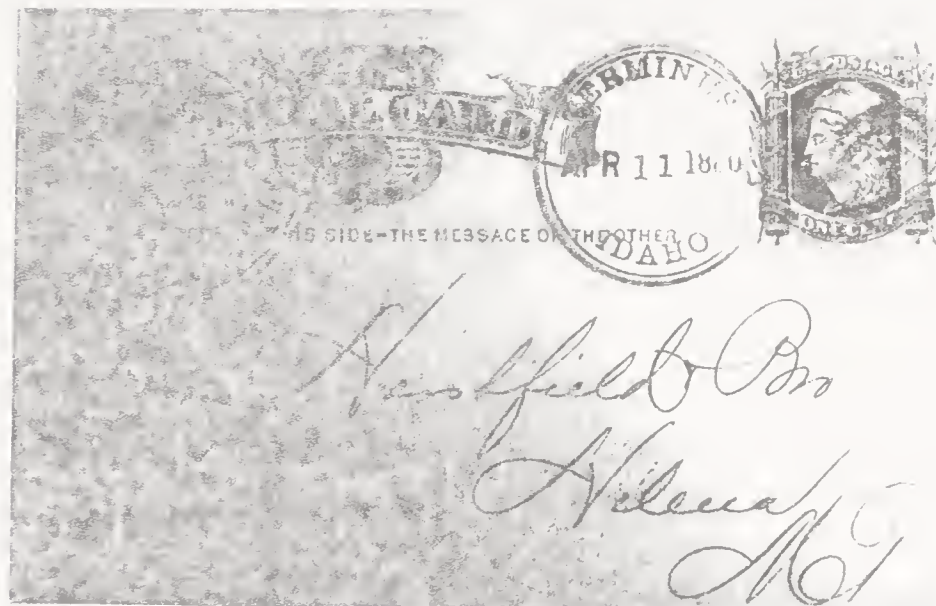
Harry L. Fine (CCRT #7) 2114 E. Balsam Ave, Mesa, Arizona 85201



The Golden Spike celebration at Promontory Summit, Utah Territory on 10 May 1869 marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad to reach the Pacific Ocean, and resulted in the beginning of a new era for the West.



The new transcontinental line was the result of the combined efforts of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, with construction starting at Omaha, Nebraska going west and the Central Pacific Railroad Company building east from San Francisco, a total distance of 1848 miles.



In the original survey of the transcontinental line, the railroad was to go through Salt Lake City and follow a route south of the Great Salt Lake. However, a later survey showed that a substantial saving could be made by building through Ogden, Utah, located about thirty miles north of Salt Lake City.

Cover (at top) from Terminus, Montana.  
Cover below is from Terminus, Idaho.  
Both from the collection of Harry L. Fine.

President Brigham Young of the Mormon Church, and Salt Lake City business men were

convinced that unless the city had railroad transportation, it could not maintain its position as a trade and distribution center. The population of Salt Lake City in 1869 was 25,000 and Utah Territory had 150,000. In spite of all the pressure brought by President Young



and the Church, the railroad authorities decided to by-pass Salt Lake City and build through Ogden. However, within a few months the Union Pacific offered to build a branch line from Salt Lake to Ogden, but this offer was declined because Brigham Young and his associates had already organized the Central Railroad Company for the purpose of constructing such a branch line. Construction was started on 17 May 1869, and by early fall the branch to Ogden connecting with the main transcontinental line was completed.

The entire project was built without the help of outside or Government funds. Colonel A.B. Carr of the Union Pacific Railroad commented during a speech delivered in Salt Lake City that "the Utah and Central is the only line west of the Missouri River that has been built wholly with money wrung from the soil, which a few years ago we used to consider a desert and by the strong arms of the men and women who stand before me. Everything used in its construction, even to the last spike, made of Utah iron, is a product of this country."

President Brigham Young and his associates continued to be very active in promoting the building of railroads reaching out from Salt Lake City; the Utah and Southern to Provo and Juab with a later extension to Frisco, Utah where large silver deposits were discovered. The Utah and Eastern was built to Coalville with a later extension to the mines at Park City, Utah.

The northern part of Utah, along with Idaho and Montana, were without railroad transportation. Freight came by rail over the transcontinental line to Corinne, Utah Territory (located about twenty-five miles north and slightly west of Ogden) and was loaded into freighters (horse, mule, or oxen drawn) for the overland journey to communities up north and on to the Montana mines where large gold and silver operations were in full swing. The distance from Corinne to the Montana mines was over 400 miles; it took from twenty to forty-five days to make the trip. The road and weather conditions were always hazardous and attacks by Indians and robberies by "Highway Men" occurred with equal regularity. The freight charges were extremely high with costs of \$1.00 per pound not uncommon.

It was only natural that communities up north wanted railroad transportation. An organization of community leaders contacted and met with Brigham Young and his associates in an effort to convince them that a railroad north to the Montana mines would mean a great deal more business for Salt Lake City. There was no question but that such a railroad would help Salt Lake City and Utah in general but due to heavy commitments on previous operations, Brigham Young and his group were unable to offer financial assistance. They did offer to furnish leadership in the undertaking and this was accepted.

John W. Young, son of Brigham Young, was assigned the task of forming an organization, and it was through his efforts along with help of the community leaders that the Utah and Northern Railroad Company was organized. At a meeting held on 23 August 1871, John W. Young was elected President and Superintendent of the Utah and Northern Railroad Company. He was successful in securing ample financial assistance from eastern banks, and construction was started almost immediately. The work was done by property owners and farmers along the "right of way." They used their own teams and equipment, taking stock in the

(Cont'd. on next page)

corporation in lieu of wages. By late 1873 the rails reached Franklin on the Utah and Idaho border. Stations, water tanks, coal bunkers and rail sidings had been constructed along the line. All indications were that by 1875 or early 1876 the Utah and Northern Railroad would be completed to the Montana mines.

The "Panic of 1873," which was caused by the over-expansion of industry, agriculture and commerce, and by the failure of many banks, including the large and powerful banking firm of Jay Cooke on 18 September 1873 caused a serious depression. It was necessary for the large banks to evaluate their holdings, and those furnishing financial assistance to the Utah and Northern Railroad were no longer willing to finance the operation. President John W. Young tried to find new financial backing and to convince the bankers that once the railroad reached the Montana mines, the revenue would be increased materially and all obligations could be met promptly. He was unsuccessful in the east, nor could the necessary funds be raised in the west. The depression lasted considerably longer than was anticipated and it was finally decided to try and sell the properties of the Utah and Northern Railroad Company.

There was no interest shown until 1877 when the Union Pacific Railroad under the guidance of Jay Gould made an offer to the Utah and Northern Railroad group which was accepted. The offer was low but their main objective was to finish the railroad to the Montana mines.

Construction was soon started north from Franklin, Utah and after the rails crossed into Idaho Territory, the town of Terminus was established. This was a temporary, portable town which moved along as construction progressed. The buildings and tents in this movable town would be dismantled when the track layers had moved ahead about thirty miles. This moving village, while small, was a very active community, with many places of business. There were general stores, eating and rooming houses, blacksmith shops, the usual dance halls, games of chance, and several saloons. The Wells-Fargo Company and Gilmer and Salisbury both operated stage and express lines and had offices in Terminus. The post office was established on 14 January 1878 while located in Idaho Territory. (No postmaster's name is recorded.)

The important business at Terminus was the unloading of freight which came by rail to the end of the line and was then taken to its destination overland by freighters. The firms who carried on this type of business were called "Forwarders." The B.F. White Forwarding and Commission Company was one of the largest operations.

The last location of Terminus was at the present site of Dillon, Montana. The town of Dillon was platted in 1880, lots were rapidly sold, and within a year the town had become a thriving community. Many fine homes and business houses were built. Dillon became the county seat of Beaverhead County. Several of the firms that were part of the moving Terminus town became permanent in Dillon and one of the larger concerns is still in operation under the leadership of the grandson of its founder.

The Utah and Northern was extended to Silver Bow, Montana in 1883 where it connected with the main line of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The records of the postmasters appointments show that Thomas B. Warren was appointed postmaster of Terminus in February 1880. The records

(Cont'd. next page)



further indicate that the post office at Terminus was discontinued on May 31st 1881 and on the same day Thomas B. Warren was appointed the first postmaster of the Dillon Montana Territory Post Office.

The two examples shown with this article are from my Montana Territorial postmark collection. I am particularly happy with the April 11, 1880 postal card showing Terminus, Idaho, and a fine example of the B.F. White Forwarding and Commission, Terminus, U. & N. Ry. handstamp. The other is a fine strike of the Terminus, Montana postmark dated January 31, 1881 on cover.

Author's Note: Dr. Stanley R. Davison, PhD, of the University of Montana system, and myself have been working on our book "Montana Mails" for over eight years. With good luck and some additional research, we may have it in manuscript form to place with the publisher early in 1969. Our project includes the establishment of post offices, their location, duration, and postmasters of interest; express and stage lines which operated into and out of Montana Territory; government mail contracts; interesting Express and Stage operators. We will have a chapter on postmarks and many fine examples of postal markings on cover.

It is our desire to include as many unusual postmarks as possible and we hope that collectors who have something very early or unusual in the way of Montana or Montano marking will advise me. (The address is at the head of this article.)

We are including Fort Laramie in our research as there are examples of the Fort Laramie, M.T. in collectors' hands, that is, the post office considered Fort Laramie in Montana Territory during the year 1865 for administrative purposes.

We are only interested in markings that appear on cover before November 8, 1889.

#### References:

Montana Historical Society  
Union Pacific Railroad  
Lesson's 1885 History of Montana  
National Archives  
Utah Historical Society

(Editor's note - Harry Fine has sent word that the above mentioned book has not as yet been published but hopefully it will be during this year.)

WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED

Wanted Missouri Banking Material Including NATIONAL CURRENCY, CHECKS, OBSOLETE NOTES and others from ST. LOUIS, MAPLEWOOD, CLAYTON, MANCHESTER, CARONDELETE and ST. CHARLES.

RONALD HORSTMANN      ROUTE #2      GERALD, MISSOURI 63037

WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED      WANTED

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And Still More On The

1932 CHECK TAX

Herman L. Boraker (CORT #156) P.O. Box 204, Rocky Ford, Colo. 81067

I recall the question being asked about the two cent tax imposed on checks during the 1930's. Recently I acquired two boxes of checks and among them I found several of each of the tax forms illustrated below. Evidently at the end of the month when the cancelled checks were returned to their maker, these statements were included with them to show the number of checks on which the two cent tax was collected and the total amount collected.

United States Revenue Tax on Checks and Drafts

Section 751 United States Revenue Act of 1932, effective June 21st, 1932, imposes a tax of two cents upon each check, draft or order for payment of money on any bank, banker or trust company. The bank is required under this Act to collect the tax by charging such amount against the account of the maker or drawer of such instrument and shall remit the proceeds monthly to the Collector of Internal Revenue.

In accordance with the law, your account has been charged for the amount shown below for

Checks and drafts paid in 1932

No. Items / Amount of Charge \$ 1.22

Mr. R. A. Burns

Early Form - "Paid" cancellation indicates tax was paid on 1-12-33 and includes the bank No. 70-992. Printed in red on white paper.

The small print on this tax statement reads: "Section 751 United States Revenue Act of 1932, effective June 21st, 1932, imposes a tax of two cents upon each check, draft or order for payment of money on any bank, banker or trust company. The bank is required under this Act to collect the tax by charging such amount against the account of the maker or drawer of such instrument and shall remit the proceeds monthly to the Collector of Internal Revenue." Note this statement states the tax became effective June 21, 1932.

The later form illustrated on the following page gives more details concerning this tax. The small print reads: "(a) There is hereby imposed a tax of 2 cents upon each of the following instruments, made or drawn on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act and before July 1, 1934: Checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, drawn upon any bank, banker, or trust company, such tax to be paid by the maker or drawer.

"(b) Every person paying any of the instruments mentioned in subsection (a) as drawee of such instrument shall collect the amount of the tax imposed under such subsection by charging such amount against any deposits to the credit of the maker or drawer of such

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instrument, and shall on or before the last day of each month make a return, under oath, for the preceding month, and pay such taxes to the collector of the district in which his principal place of business is located, or if he has no principal place of business in the United States, to the collector at Baltimore, Maryland. Such returns shall contain such information and be made in such manner as the Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary may by regulations prescribe. Every person required to collect any tax under this section is hereby indemnified against the claims and demands of any person for the amount of any payments made in accordance with the provisions of this station".

## PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MANSFIELD

MANSFIELD, ILLINOIS

### CHARGE

ACCOUNT OF

\$

FOR COLLECTION OF U. S. TAX ON CHECKS, ETC., PAID DURING MONTH OF 1934  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 751, PART VI, OF THE REVENUE ACT OF 1932, AS FOLLOWS:

(a) There is hereby imposed a tax of 2 cents upon each of the following instruments, made or drawn on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act and before July 1, 1934. Checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money, drawn upon any bank, banker, or trust company, such tax to be paid by the maker or drawer.  
(b) Every person paying any of the instruments mentioned in subsection (a) as drawee of such instrument shall collect the amount of the tax imposed under such subsection by charging such amount against any deposits to the credit of the maker or drawer of such instrument, and shall on or before the last day of each month make a return, under oath, for the preceding month, and pay such tax: to the collector of the district in which his principal place of business is located, or if he has no principal place of business in the United States, to the collector at Baltimore, Maryland. Such returns shall contain such information and be made in such manner as the Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary may by regulation prescribe. Every person required to collect any tax under this section is hereby indemnified against the claims and demands of any person for the amount of any payments made in accordance with the provisions of this station.

Revised Form "Paid" cancellation indicates tax was paid on 3-6-34 and includes the bank No. 70-992. Printed on white paper, black ink with bank name printed.

The statement on the above printed form indicates the tax was effective "on and after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act and before July 1, 1934". This Act must have been revised or extended as I have several other such tax forms with perforation "Paid" dates of October and December 1934.

MANSFIELD, ILL. Dec 2 1932 No. 70-992

**PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MANSFIELD**

PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Car*

*Two hundred and thirty* <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>

*R. A. Burns*

\$230 <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>

DOLLARS

2 in circle indicates tax was paid.



Perhaps if one of our members has access to Section 751 of this 1932 Revenue Act we will be able to verify the actual inclusive dates of this Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

C-L-E-A-R-I-N-G H-O-U-S-E

Listings on this page are free to members - donations acceptable. Listed below are items members wish to BUY, SELL, TRADE or WANT. Take advantage of this FREE advertising in the next issue. SEND IN YOUR AD NOW!

FOR SALE 7½"x 2-¾", printed by Bacon & Company, Printers, S.F. Good Cond. Wells Fargo (early 1870's) Carson Nevada, has gold imprinted Revenue Stamp - \$10.00. Genuine, Guaranteed. Bearer type ck., used. Don Havens, 5125 W. Alameda, Denver, Colo. 80219

FOR SALE List of Old Checks that I have for sale. Just send stamp and I'll be happy to send list of checks that are for sale. Some with Trains and some with Steamship (Old Sidewheeler) "Bristol, 1884" - Two types of this one. Frank G. Burke, 31 Merrill Ave., Lynn, Mass. 01902

TRADE I will trade 10 canceled checks all different for 20 of your area all the same. Also older checks on a 1 for 1 basis. I have a few stock certificates to trade for stock certificates or specific Mexican and Canadian coins. Bruce Anderson, 504 Overlook Dr. N.E., Lancaster, Ohio 43130

FOR SALE Some very interesting Old Checks for sale. Some with vignettes of Old Trains, some very Old Trains - Cape Cod Railroad Co. Some with Sidewheeler "Bristol, Old Colony Steamboat Co." Also some with Old Mass. State Seal and some with Standing Liberty and some uncut sheets with old train, 18-- , Unsigned. Most all of them have Revenue Stamps. Send stamp for large list. Frank G. Burke, 31 Merrill Ave., Lynn, Mass. 01902

FOR SALE BANK OF NEW YORK, 1890's, has "Hamilton Fish" printed across left end - was Governor of New York. No Revenue ... \$1.25 Also, Columbus, Ohio 1860's and early '70's. P.W. Huntington & Co. Bankers. Has fancy scroll left with attached Revenue Stamp...\$2.00 Don Havens, 5125 W. Alameda, Denver, Colo. 80219

WANT What have you got from early Cincinnati, Ohio? Checks, drafts, obsolete paper money and printers sample books or die-proofs of same. Books pertaining to early Cincinnati. Write - describe and give condition and price. Robert Flaig, P.O. Box 27112, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

WANT Wanted stock certificates (older) issued. Gold and Silver and other mining stocks plus older issued Railroad Stock Certificates. Anthony Gruzdis, 395 Belmont Ave., Haledon, N.J. 07508

OFFER Interesting reading on these cold summer nights! I offer a free retail list, about 30 pages long, chock full of checks, mostly, along with vignetted receipts, stock certificates and other nice old paper documents. Two 8¢ stamps appreciated, but not necessary! Paul A. Cunningham, Box 1, Tecumseh, Michigan 49286

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Of durable 5-gauge thickness acetate, open on 2 sides.

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2. 7½ x 3-3/4, great for smaller items. Closeout  
SPECIAL on this hard-to-get size. 4¢ each
3. 8½ x 11, versatile popular size, with black paper  
filler and flap. Either: no punch or 3-hole punch.  
Museum-quality cellulose acetate. 19¢ each  
Economical crystal clear styrene just 19¢ each
4. ALSO AVAILABLE: 6 x 9 "window-front" paper  
envelope, with gummed flap, clear plastic front. 6¢ each

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CCRT #148

CLEARING HOUSE (Cont'd.)

WANT Wanted- Stock Certificates (Older), Issued. Gold and Silver and  
other mining stocks plus older issued Railroad Stock Certificates.  
Anthony Gruzdis, 395 Belmont Ave., Haledon, N.J. 07508

FOR SALE Central City, Colo, Rocky Mountain Nat'l. Bank, 1912-13 Certificate  
of Deposit, like 1876 checks that are so rare - except they are  
printed 19. All are used and cancelled, large ornate with "Certif-  
icate of Deposit" overprinted in green. Sailor-Farmer-Blacksmith vig-  
nette left. A very nice large certificate, maybe more rare than the  
1876. Very few found. \$3.00 each. Also Central City, Colo. from  
Hawley Merchandise Co, 1917-19. My choice - Ten checks for \$1.00  
plus one Free gift check. Don Havens, 5125 Alameda, Denver, Colo.  
80219

SALE Ind. Terr. checks, about 8 different banks, 1903-1907. \$1.00 each.  
Clorita, Oklahoma checks 1910-1920, these are personal cancelled  
checks for 10¢ each. Clorita, Okla. Cashier cancelled checks for  
years 1914-1920, 15¢ each. Ind. Terr. Post Cards \$3.00 each. Clorita,  
Okla. Clearinghouse checks, 1914-1920 for 15¢ ea. Ind. Terr deposit  
slips for 50¢ ea. Would like to trade for other Ind. Terr. checks.  
K.D. Hunley, Rt. 5, Ada, Okla. 74820

SALE States-  
ville, N.C., 1890's. Three different type checks from 1st Nat'l.  
Bank. All three for \$1.00 (No Rev.) Don Havens, 5125 W. Alameda,  
Denver, Colo. 80219

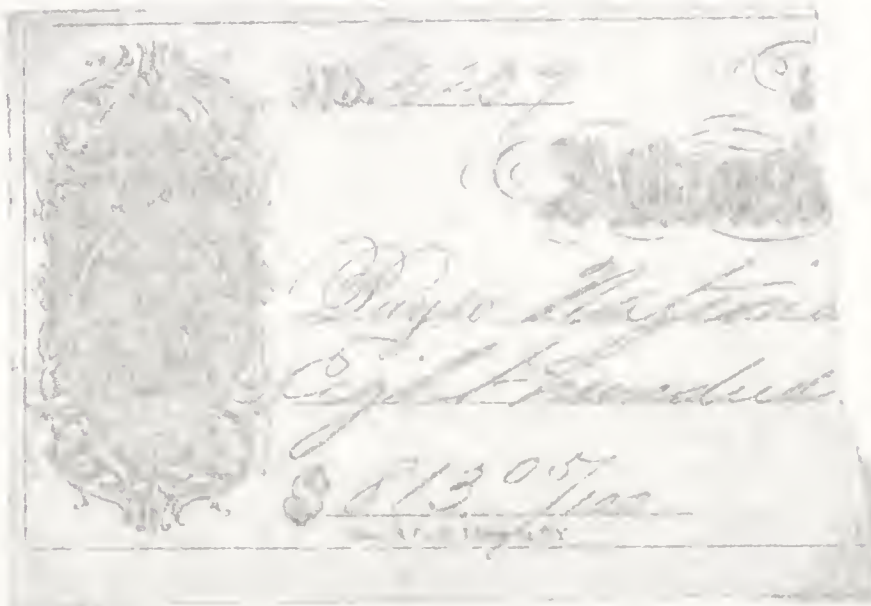
- END -

Articles for TCL are ALWAYS NEEDED AND WELCOME!



TWO INTERESTING PART CHECKS

George Story, Sr. (CORT #5) 1920 N.W. 12th St., Oklahoma City,  
Oklahoma 73106



It is hoped the reproduction of these two "cut-square" checks, terminology of the revenue collectors, will be reasonably clear to illustrate the interesting points that follow.

In the case of both of these half checks, the Scott RW-B1 revenue imprint has been overprinted with a fancy design to accommodate an affixed revenue stamp. This is so obvious that it has to be a boo-boc on the part of the printer. (See note below)



The next interesting thing about this pair of partial checks is that one is numbered No. 4207 and the one below is No. 4207 1/2 - how about that? Could there have been a No. 4207 1/2 in between them???

Lastly, the bottom check appears to be made payable to "Eearer" although one can't be sure since part of the writing is missing.

If anyone else is aware of similar boo-boos, I would be happy to hear from them.

NOTE - A similar illustrated check, also from Mr. Story's collection, appears in the June 1973 issue of "American Revenuer". The editor of that publication is of the opinion this error came about when the bank or business ordered a supply of checks for its customers with the tax prepaid. The bank, or printer at the bank's request, ordered stamped paper from the American Phototype Co. Browne & Co. of New York. The printers used the bank's normal check printing plate which included the "Stamp" block to imprint the checks.

JOIN THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION -

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR EDITOR

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BARCLAY BANK CHEQUE

This cheque is through the courtesy of Vincent Pearson, C.C.R.T.  
Representative in England.

(Mount Cheque Here)

Barclay & Company Limited was established in 1896 through the amalgamation of 19 banks which had been operating since 1694. In February 1917, the name was changed to Barclays Bank Limited and is still operating today. These cheques were printed by George Falkner & Sons Limited in pale green. Note this check has a General Crossing which means that the cheque can only be paid through a bank account. English cheques can be issued either Open or Crossed; a crossed cheque must have two parallel lines drawn or printed across it. The cheque bears the blue Revenue Stamp for two pence, this amount being set in force by the Finance Act of 1918. Revenue duty was abolished on cheques in 1971.

\* \* \* \* \*

WHAT IS NEEDED? -

YOUR COOPERATION -

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Enclosed with this issue is a Membership Form. At the next opportunity place it in the hands of a likely prospect and take a few minutes to tell him or her about CCRT. Fall is coming and with it there will be increased interest in collecting activity. Students and youth are welcome prospects too! Additional forms are available from Larry Adams, for larger quantities contact your editor - addresses are on inside cover page.

Let's double our membership - Every member get a member!



Numerous articles have been published concerning the continuing increase in the volume of checks being written and the problems this increase is causing. The discussion in the report below clearly states this growing problem and what is contemplated to relieve it - from the most authoritative source, The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, District 5. This bank's 1972 Annual Report will be reproduced in TCL in two sections due to its length. Acknowledgement to Mrs. Margo Russell, Coin World Editor, who obtained this report for CCRT.

## THE CHECK PAYMENTS SYSTEM AND THE FIFTH DISTRICT REGIONAL CLEARING PLAN

Throughout the United States, bankers, computer specialists, and electronics engineers are busily planning an overhaul of the nation's payments mechanism. Small wonder, for a general reconditioning is badly needed. At present, the vast majority of payments transactions are carried out through the medium of the check. Once they enter the payments stream, checks must be processed and shipped; and many checks must subsequently be reprocessed and reshipped many times. Because the volume of check transactions has burgeoned during recent years, the payments system faces the unhealthy prospect of choking on a mass of paper.

### *The Payments Mechanism: Problems and Prospects*

#### CHECK VOLUME: HIGH TIDE

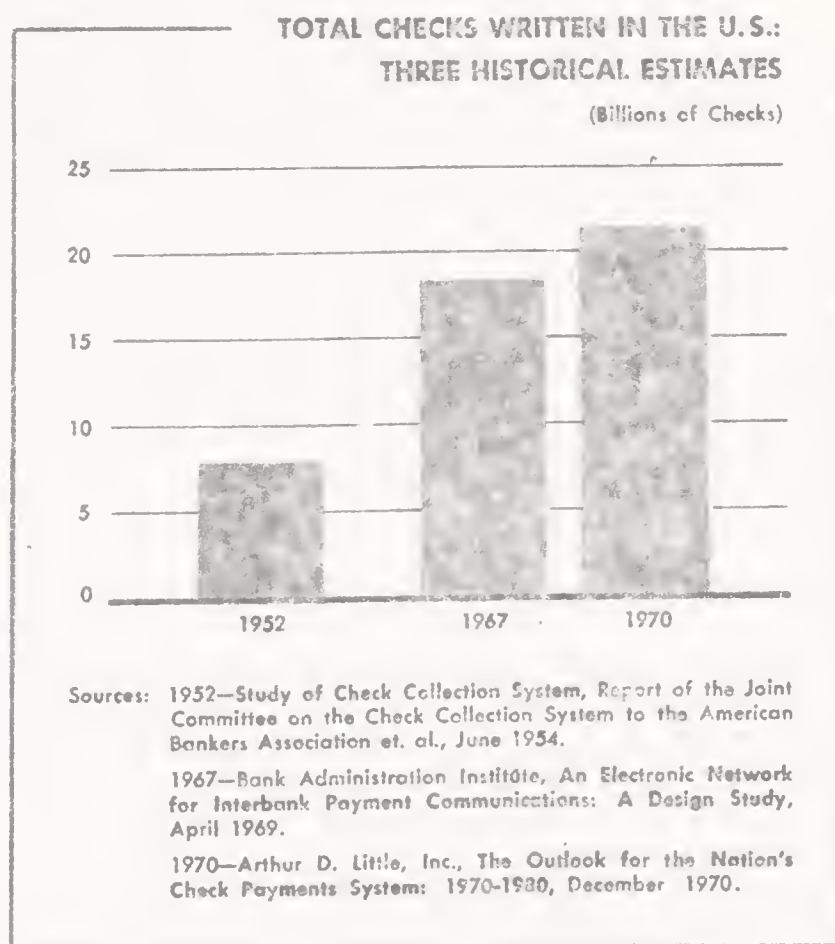
The accompanying charts provide some indication of the dimensions of the problem. Relatively few attempts have been made to estimate the total number of checks written annually throughout the country. Chart 1 displays the results of the three most commonly-cited studies, which developed estimates for the years 1952, 1967, and 1970. According to these estimates, total check volume grew from approximately 7.8 billion items in 1952 to around 18.7 billion in 1967 and then to about 21.5 billion in 1970. On the basis of these figures, the average annual rate of growth over the full 18-year period was approximately 6 percent. There is every reason to believe that volume will continue to rise at a comparable rate during the present decade. Chart 2 presents the rather frightening implications. If volume grows at what appears to be the

consensus forecast of around 7 percent per year, some 42 billion checks will be written in 1980. Even if the growth rate slows to 5 percent, volume will increase to 35 billion items. More pessimistically, should the rate accelerate to 10 percent, it will be necessary to cope with over 55 billion checks per year by the end of the decade.

Fifth District volume growth appears to be roughly parallel to national trends. Although data on total District volume are unavailable, recent changes in the number of items processed by this Bank provide some indication of the situation. As illustrated by Chart 3, the annual processing load trippled between 1960 and 1971, and currently exceeds 700 million items.

The real costs of processing and shipping all of these checks are very high, whether one views these costs from the standpoint of the banking industry or from the standpoint of society at large. A vast array of personnel, data processing equipment, and transportation facilities supports the check payments system. To the banking industry, the costs of operating the system take the form of salaries, equipment rentals, and shipping fees. (Available evidence suggests that these costs, including the Federal Reserve System's check operations expenditures,

Chart 1





exceed \$1 billion annually.) The costs to the general public must be measured in terms of the manpower and equipment resources that could be devoted to alternative productive activities if they were not engaged in handling and moving checks. What's more, direct resource costs don't tell the whole story, for the nature of the check collection process gives rise to a variety of indirect costs. In particular, delays in presenting checks to the banks on which they are drawn can affect bank reserves, thereby contributing to disconcerting day-to-day movements in short-term interest rates.

## A VISION OF THE FUTURE

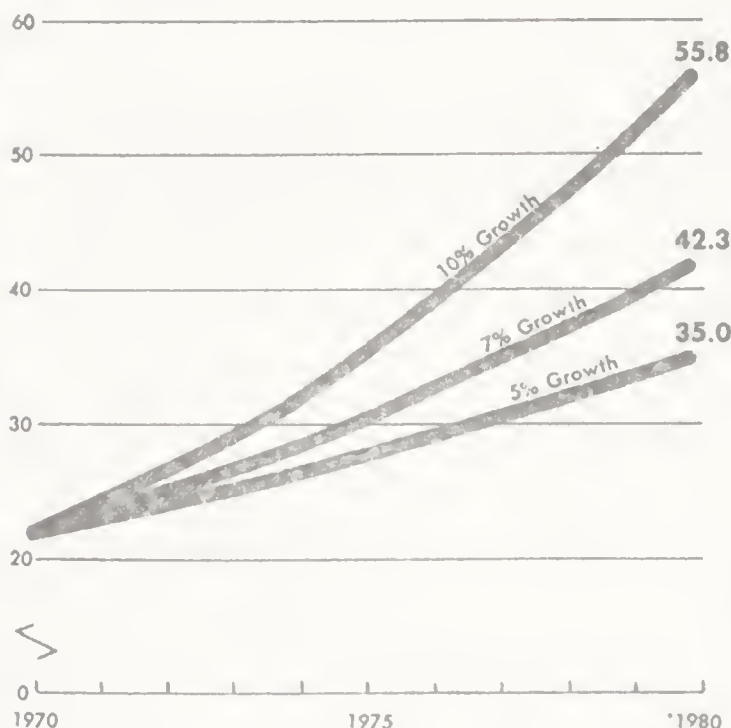
It would appear that something needs to be done. The essence of the problem is the need to reduce the number of checks required to complete a given volume of payments transactions or, as a second-best

Chart 2

### PROJECTED U. S. CHECK VOLUMES:

1970-1980

(Billions of Checks)

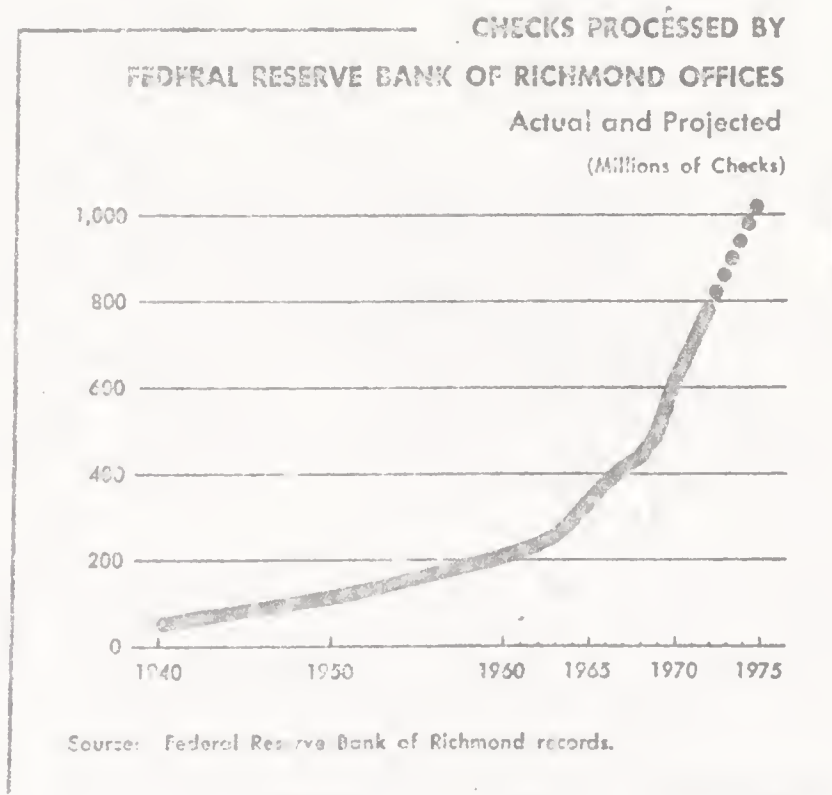


Source: Arthur D. Little, Inc. The Outlook for the Nation's Check Payments System: 1970-1980, December 1970.

alternative, to reduce the number of times a given check must be handled and the distance it must travel. Some steps are already being taken. By using credit cards, consumers are now able to write a single check to cover several transactions. Some banks are offering consumers preauthorized payment services whereby a bank automatically pays a customer's recurring bills, debiting the customer's account accordingly. In addition, banks are making a variety of check-reducing arrangements available to business firms. Through automatic payroll services, for example, a firm can issue a single check to a bank covering all salaries due employees who maintain accounts in that bank. The bank then credits each employee's account.

But these developments appear relatively tame when compared to some of the quite revolutionary innovations currently being studied. Most specialists in the payments field consider the ultimate goal to be a full application of modern computer and electronic transmissions technology to the payments system. The most advanced conceptions of the future system envision a world where virtually all payments are carried out electronically. Account information will be stored on computers in banks and other institutions. Regional and nationwide communications systems will permit the instantaneous transfer of funds from accounts in one institution to other accounts in the same or in other institutions. Remote terminals will be located in commercial establishments where payments are commonly initiated. Instead of presenting a check at the

Chart 3





grocery counter, the housewife will insert a card into the store's terminal, thereby transmitting a payment message generating an automatic transfer of funds from her account to the grocer's account. In this world, the check will be eliminated as a means of payment. This vision may have an air of science fiction about it, but steps are already being taken to make the vision reality. Most notably, so-called SCOPE (Special Committee on Paperless Entries) projects, already underway in California, Atlanta, New York, and elsewhere, will lead eventually to the electronic transfer of debits and credits between banks in local and regional areas.

### SOME PROBLEMS

While progress is being made, there is nonetheless good reason to believe that the paperless payments system is still at least a few years off. While the basic technology required appears to be available, a number of specific technical problems remain to be solved. First, some system must be devised whereby persons originating automatic payments at remote terminals can be positively identified. Otherwise, counterfeit payments will present serious difficulties. Second, transmission facilities must be refined to a high level of efficiency. As anyone who uses a telephone is aware, interference can occasionally distort communications between calling parties. Such interferences are merely vexing; distorted payments messages involving hundreds of dollars would be intolerable. These technical problems suggest what is probably the most formidable obstacle to the transformation: public acceptance. The average citizen does not yet view computers and sophisticated communications systems with much confidence. It will take time and a heavy dose of persuasion to induce the public to loosen its grip on the cancelled check as proof of payment. Beyond this, some incentive will have to be devised to make faster payments palatable.

These considerations suggest that the demise of the check is not yet at hand. Meanwhile, check volume continues to grow apace. It is apparent that, pending the arrival of the checkless society, interim measures are required to reduce the burdens of the **check** payments system. Several steps have already been taken. The Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) program instituted in the late 1950's has transferred many routine check processing tasks such as sorting and tabulation from people to machines, significantly reducing the time required to process a given volume of checks. Moreover, a recent change in Federal Reserve Regulation J has reduced the time required to accomplish final payment in many check transactions.

One of the most promising developments in check payments is the recent establishment by the Federal Reserve System of regional check clearing centers in various parts of the country. The purpose of such centers is to accelerate the clearing of checks within specifically defined

geographic regions where the volume of intraregional payments is heavy. The first center opened at this Bank's Baltimore Branch in January 1970. More recently, this Bank developed a plan for a regional clearing system to serve the entire Fifth District. This article will describe the proposed system and indicate how it will improve the District's check payments mechanism. To appreciate fully what the new system is designed to accomplish, however, one must first understand how the current system operates, how it evolved, and why it needs to be changed. Accordingly, the next two sections summarize the historical development of check payments in the United States and briefly outline current check collection arrangements, pointing out some of their principal deficiencies. A subsequent section will then describe the Fifth District regional clearing plan, specify as precisely as possible how the new system will improve the collection process, and indicate why the new system is a natural step in the evolution of the District's check payments mechanism.

## *The Check Payments System: Some History and Some Basic Principles<sup>1</sup>*

### WHAT IS A CHECK?

A check is simply a depositor's written order to his bank to pay a specified sum of money to a designated payee on demand. Checks are only one of a variety of means by which individuals and business firms can effect payment for specific obligations. By all odds, however, checks are the most important payments instrument in the United States, probably accounting for over 90 percent of the total dollar value of all payments transactions.

Figure 1 depicts a typical check. The illustrated check contains the usual information familiar to every citizen including the name of the drawee bank, the payee, the amount to be paid, the drawer of the check, and the drawer's account number. One piece of information carried on the face of the check, the meaning of which is not common knowledge, is the so-called routing symbol number given by the numbers in the upper right corner and repeated in a slightly different form in magnetic ink characters in the lower left corner. This number, a relatively recent innovation, is a code that assists in sorting checks according to the geographic location of drawee banks.

---

<sup>1</sup> Much of what follows is discussed in greater detail in Walter Earl Spahr, *The Clearing and Collection of Checks* (New York: The Bankers Publishing Co., 1926.) Even at this late date Spahr's book remains the definitive treatise on check payments. See also Claude L. Guthrie, "The Development of the Check Collection System During the Past Twenty-Five Years" (Unpublished thesis, The Graduate School of Banking, Rutgers University, 1941.)



## ORIGINS

It is not entirely clear where and when the check was invented, although it is known that instruments similar in principle to the modern check were used in Italy as early as the fifteenth century and in the Netherlands during the sixteenth century. Checks first appeared in Britain around 1675, where they evolved out of the practice of depositing specie with goldsmiths. Once such deposits had become fairly widespread, they were used to make payments in two ways that served as convenient alternatives to the direct transfer of specie by a debtor to his creditors. First, the goldsmiths issued paper receipts called "goldsmiths' notes" to their depositors promising to pay a certain sum to the depositor or to the bearer on demand. The depositor could then use the notes to make payments. These notes were the forerunners of bank-issued paper currency. Second, the depositor might issue a written order to his goldsmith directing him to pay a certain sum to some specified creditor. The depositor would then send the order to the payee who would collect from the goldsmith. These orders, referred to at the time as "cash notes," had most of the basic characteristics of the modern check. They also possessed some very obvious advantages over direct specie payments. First, their use reduced the need to maintain large specie balances, with their attendant risks, to support current transactions. Second, they made it possible to tailor individual payments to the exact amount required by each transaction.

Figure 1

## A TYPICAL CHECK

The diagram shows a check from 'LAST NATIONAL BANK' in 'Someplace, Virginia'. The check number is 34, and the routing symbol number is 88-788 514. The date is May 18, 1972. The payee is John Doe, and the amount is \$23.00 (Twenty three and 00/100 dollars). The drawer's signature is R. B. Doaker. The account number is 0514-0788-39-30 247. Labels with arrows point to the following fields: CHECK NUMBER, PAYEE, DRAWEE BANK, ROUTING SYMBOL NUMBER, AMOUNT OF CHECK, ACCOUNT NUMBER, DRAWER'S SIGNATURE, and DATE.

CHECK NUMBER	PAYEE	DRAWEE BANK	ROUTING SYMBOL NUMBER
No. 34	John Doe	LAST NATIONAL BANK Someplace, Virginia	88-788 514

Pay to the Order of John Doe \$23.00

Twenty three and 00/100 dollars

R. B. Doaker

0514-0788-39-30 247

AMOUNT OF CHECK	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DRAWER'S SIGNATURE	DATE
\$23.00	0514-0788-39-30 247	R. B. Doaker	May 18 1972

Finally, when the notes returned to the drawer carrying the goldsmith's statement of payment (the earliest form of the cancelled check), they served as a convenient receipt providing proof that payment had indeed been made.

In America, the first instrument similar to the modern check developed out of a financial experiment during the 1680's known as "The Fund at Boston in New England." Under this arrangement, certain wealthy individuals mortgaged their land to the Fund, receiving credit on the books of the Fund in return. Among other privileges, participants could issue "pass-bills" to other participants ordering the Fund to transfer money from one account to another. Because specie was scarce and the population was scattered, however, conditions did not favor the further development of deposit banking and the use of checks as a means of payment during the Colonial period. Consequently, other payments instruments such as bank-issued paper currency and bank drafts dominated American commerce until well into the nineteenth century. By the time of the Civil War, however, the check had become the nation's most common transactions medium.

## CHECK COLLECTION AND CLEARING

Once the use of checks had become fairly widespread, check recipients were faced with a problem: how to collect final payment with a minimum of inconvenience. Obviously, merchants could not spend all of their time trekking from one bank to another collecting for checks presented to them. Sensing the opportunity to expand their operations, banks began to collect checks for their customers. A customer would deposit all of the checks issued to him at his bank. The bank would then credit the customer's account and subsequently collect payment from each designated drawee bank. The check collection process is the core of the check payments system and remains one of the most important routine services provided by commercial banks. Since its inception, virtually all efforts to improve the checking system have been aimed at accelerating or simplifying the collection process. Regional clearing centers, such as those envisioned in the Fifth District regional clearing plan, are merely the latest entries in a rather venerable tradition of innovations in collection procedures. Few subjects lend themselves so readily to historical treatment as the check collection process, for the existing mixture of arrangements is quite incomprehensible unless one has some idea how they evolved.

**EARLY COLLECTION PROCEDURES** Initially, collecting banks sorted checks by drawee banks and employed messengers to transport the resulting bundles to drawee institutions. If a drawee was located some distance from the collecting bank, the postal system or an express service was employed.



**THE CLEARING PRINCIPLE** Once the check had become a fairly common instrument in local commerce, banks in the larger cities found themselves collecting sizeable numbers of checks drawn on other local banks. At first, each bank sent a messenger with a bundle of checks to every other bank. The messenger would arrive at a bank, present the bundle of checks drawn on that bank, receive payment in specie, and then deliver the specie to the collecting bank. It took bankers only a short time to recognize that this procedure was woefully inefficient. Out of this recognition evolved the practice of **clearing** checks. Each bank's messenger would take all checks drawn on other banks to some central gathering place, or clearinghouse, and there exchange his bundles with all of the other messengers for items drawn on his own bank. Many such arrangements included a manager and a central set of accounts. Following the exchange, each bank's net position in the day's clearing was calculated. Each bank's account with the clearinghouse manager was then credited or debited accordingly. In this way, collection was accomplished through a mutual settlement of offsetting claims.<sup>2</sup>

Clearing checks in this manner rather than collecting directly from each individual bank greatly increased the efficiency of the collection

<sup>2</sup> The principle of clearing offsetting claims is applicable not only to check payments, of course, but to payments generally. The practice was well established several centuries before the use of checks became widespread.

Figure 2

### THE CLEARING PRINCIPLE

#### DIRECT COLLECTION



Number of Round Trips: 12

Number of Payments Transactions: 12

#### CLEARING



Number of Round Trips: 4

Number of Payments Transactions: 4

process.<sup>3</sup> Figure 2 illustrates the gain for a town with four banks. The diagram at the top of the chart depicts the situation before the introduction of clearing. Each U-shaped arrow represents one round trip by a messenger between a collecting bank and another bank. Assuming that each of the four banks has checks drawn on each of the other three, 12 round trips and 12 separate payments are required to complete intra-town collection. The diagram at the bottom of the chart shows the contrasting requirements once a clearinghouse has been established in the town. Only four round trips are necessary, one between each bank and the clearinghouse. Hence, eight round trips are eliminated.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the number of payments transactions is reduced from 12 separate payments to four entries, either net debits or net credits, on the books of the clearinghouse. A little thought will convince the reader that as the number of participating banks increases, the gains are magnified at an ever increasing rate.

Anticipating some of the discussion that follows, it is important to recognize that clearing associations are most effective where each participating bank is collecting a fairly sizeable volume of checks drawn on each of the other participating banks. That is, clearing areas should correspond as closely as possible to the pattern of check payments. This consideration is particularly important under modern conditions since many clearing arrangements are now regional in scope, reflecting the growth of regional commerce. Figure 3 illustrates this point. The first diagram represents the pattern of payments between the residents of four towns: A, B, C, and D. As indicated, the volume of transactions between the residents of town A and the residents of town B is heavy. In contrast, volume is light between towns A and B on the one hand and towns C and D on the other. The three remaining diagrams illustrate three alternative clearing arrangements. Ideally, towns A and B should participate in one clearing association and towns C and D in another. If, for one reason or another, separate associations are not feasible, a second-best alternative would include all four towns in a single clearing system. This arrangement is inferior to the preceding one. If the clearinghouse is situated in town C, for example, the heavy volume of town A-town B checks would have to be routed through town C. The last diagram depicts an inefficient arrangement where town B participates in a clearing association with towns C and D but town A does not. Here, the light volume of checks between town A on the one side and towns C and D on the other would be cleared, but the heavy volume between towns A and B would not be cleared.

It is impossible to overstate the significance of the role played by the clearing principle in the development of the check collection mechanism. It is of course true that improved transportation facilities and

<sup>3</sup> Throughout the remainder of this article the term "collect" refers to sending a check to a drawee bank and obtaining payment for the check without distinction as to the means employed. The term "clear" refers to collecting items through a mutual arrangement of the sort just described.

<sup>4</sup> The number of trips eliminated would be somewhat less if, before the introduction of clearing, a messenger called on more than one bank on a single trip.



the substitution of data processing equipment for manual operations have significantly increased the efficiency of the system over the years. But it seems fair to say that the clearing principle constitutes the only major **conceptual** innovation in check collection arrangements in the entire history of check payments. In a broad way, the principle underlies the Federal Reserve's present collection system. It also underlies the regional clearing center concept and the Fifth District regional clearing plan. As indicated below, the basic objective of the Fifth District program is to reapply the principle in accordance with recent changes in the pattern of check payments.

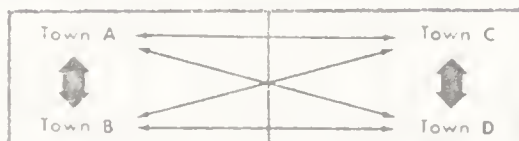
Figure 3

### ALTERNATIVE CLEARING CONFIGURATIONS

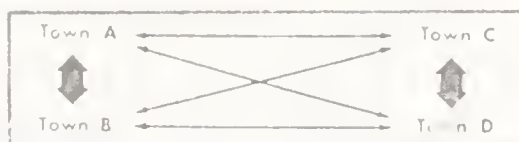
#### 1. CHECK PAYMENT PATTERNS



#### 2. THE IDEAL CLEARING ARRANGEMENT



#### 3. A SECOND-BEST ALTERNATIVE



#### 4. AN INEFFICIENT ARRANGEMENT



## COLLECTION AND CLEARING IN THE UNITED STATES

**THE PRE-FEDERAL RESERVE PERIOD** It would be a bit misleading to refer to the hodgepodge of check collection arrangements existing in the United States prior to 1914 as a "system." Basically, each bank developed a set of collection procedures tailored to fit its particular requirements. The rather confusing array of practices that emerged during the period can best be treated under two headings: (1) collection of local items and (2) collection of nonlocal items.

**Local collection.** As one might expect, local area collection posed fewer problems for most banks than nonlocal collection. Clearinghouse associations were established in most major American cities during the nineteenth century, beginning with New York in 1853. These associations operated along the lines described above. For the most part, these arrangements were rather strictly circumscribed geographically. That is, membership was usually confined to banks located within or in the immediate vicinity of a given town or city. Most privately operated clearinghouses have retained their local character to the present day.

**Nonlocal collection.** Procedures for collecting checks drawn on nonlocal banks were far less uniform. Most such items were collected through correspondents. Discerning geographic patterns in checks deposited by their customers, banks established correspondent relationships in cities and towns where a sizeable number of items were payable. Under more favorable conditions, these arrangements might have developed into a reasonably coherent and efficient mechanism since they could be expected to reflect the natural flow of payments; however, certain institutional practices common at the time supervened. In particular, many banks followed the custom of exacting remittance charges when paying for checks drawn on themselves presented through the mail by nonlocal banks. Usually, this charge amounted to a deduction of about one-quarter of one percent from the face value of a check. The practice was defended on the grounds that paying banks incurred shipping charges and other expenses in the course of remitting to nonlocal collectors. Such "nonpar" remittances, as they were called, thoroughly disrupted the collection process. Intense competition for deposits induced collecting banks to credit depositors for the full face value of a deposited check whether the check was drawn on a par bank or on a nonpar bank. Therefore, the collecting bank was forced to absorb the charge on nonpar items unless it could pass the check either directly or indirectly to some intermediary bank having a par remittance arrangement with the drawee bank. Under these circumstances, a check often followed an extremely circuitous route between the bank of first deposit and the drawee institution. A famous example, illustrated by Figure 4, is that of a check drawn on a North Birmingham, Alabama, bank deposited in a Birmingham bank four miles away. To

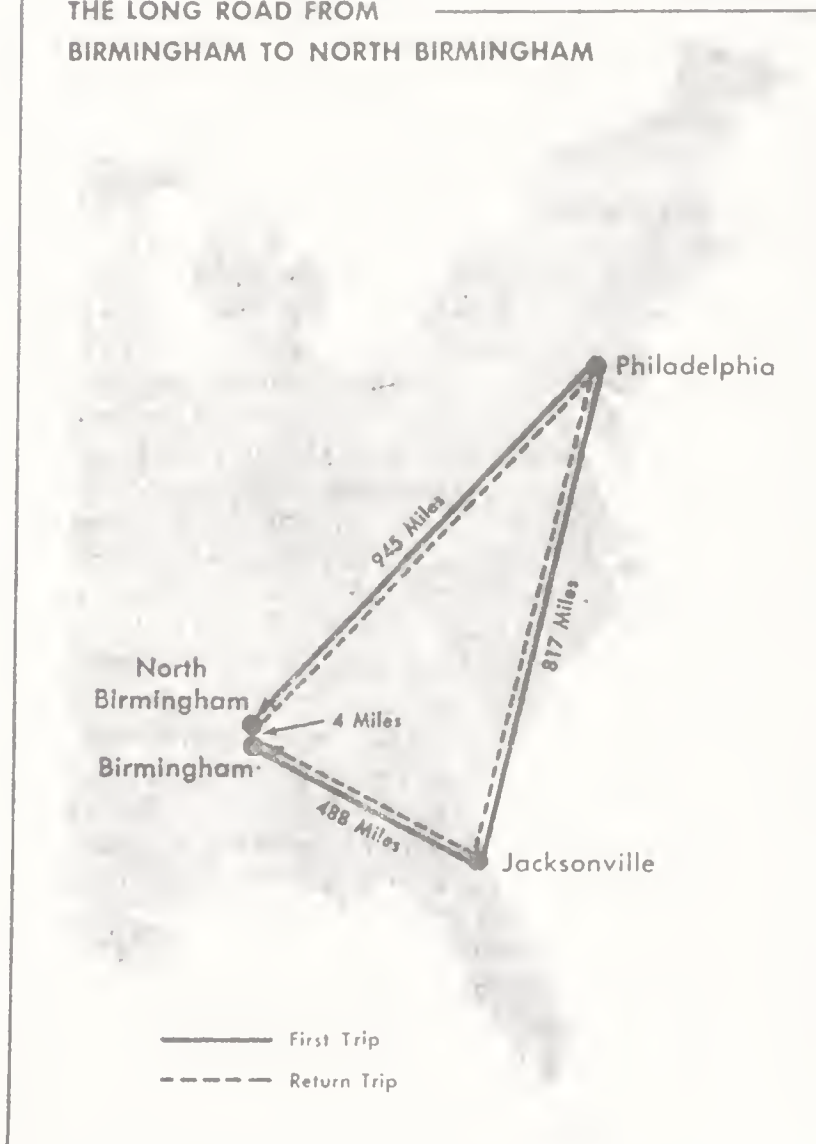


avoid the North Birmingham bank's remittance charge, the Birmingham bank sent the check to Jacksonville, Florida. From there, the check was shipped to Philadelphia and finally back to North Birmingham. Because the check was dishonored, it then traveled the same circuit in reverse before being returned to the original depositor. All told, the check covered some 4,500 miles and consumed 14 days in transit. In short, nonlocal collection procedures, disorganized to begin with, were rendered almost ludicrous by nonpar remittance practices.

**The Boston country clearinghouse.** Prior to the establishment of the Federal Reserve System, several efforts were made by groups of banks to reduce the chaos associated with nonlocal collection. By far the most successful was the so-called country clearing arrangement

Figure 4

**THE LONG ROAD FROM  
BIRMINGHAM TO NORTH BIRMINGHAM**



initiated at the turn of the century by the Boston Clearinghouse. The plan was motivated by the desire of the large Boston banks to institute par check collection throughout New England.<sup>5</sup> The implications of the plan extended beyond the par collection controversy, however; and the arrangement constituted, in effect, the nation's first **regional** clearing system. Under the plan, the Boston Clearinghouse undertook to collect for its members checks drawn on outlying or "country" banks in New England in addition to Boston city items. Country items deposited at the Clearinghouse were pre-sorted by state and were handled separately from the city work. The Clearinghouse mailed the checks to the respective drawee banks, received the remittances (usually in the form of drafts on Boston banks), and settled with the collecting banks through the regular city clearing. The nonpar problem was confronted by charging back any remittance charge levied by a drawee bank to the individual or firm depositing the check, thereby disadvantaging nonpar bank customers. This approach was successful, and the great majority of banks in the region were remitting at par within a few years of the plan's initiation. The broader significance of the arrangement, however, lay in its systematic application of the clearing principle to an entire region. The region selected was particularly appropriate because it constituted an integrated trade area centered on Boston. Consequently, most checks deposited at area banks were drawn on other banks in the region and could be collected through the system. The plan fell short of a fully integrated clearing arrangement in that country banks were not Clearinghouse members. Therefore, they could not send checks directly to the Clearinghouse but had to route the items through one of the Boston city banks. Nonetheless, in addition to curtailing remittance charges and the flagrantly circuitous routing of checks that accompanied these charges, the Boston plan demonstrated the distinct advantages of clearing checks through a central facility on a regional basis. Specifically, it is estimated that the consolidated handling and shipping of checks through the system reduced collection costs from approximately \$1.25 to about seven cents per thousand transaction dollars.<sup>6</sup> The plan provided a model for the Federal Reserve collection system set in motion 15 years later.

**THE FEDERAL RESERVE CHECK COLLECTION SYSTEM: ORIGINS AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES** A principal goal of the Federal Reserve Act, enacted in late 1913, was to unify the structure of the commercial banking industry through the creation of a central reserve depository. A related objective, made possible by the existence of centralized reserves, was the creation of a comprehensive check collection system that would provide an efficient mechanism for collecting and clearing nonlocal checks both regionally and nationally.

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The plan was modeled on New England's earlier Suffolk System for the par redemption of bank notes.

<sup>6</sup> See Spahr, *op.cit.*, p. 128.



**Legal basis.** Sections 13 and 16 of the Federal Reserve Act provide the legal foundation for the Federal Reserve collection system. Section 13 authorizes the 12 Reserve Banks to act, in effect, as clearinghouses for Federal Reserve member banks in their respective districts. As originally enacted, Section 13 restricted this service to checks deposited by member banks that were drawn on other member banks. Subsequent amendments in 1916 and 1917 permitted the Reserve Banks to collect items drawn on nonmember banks and to accept items for collection from nonmember banks if the nonmember agreed to maintain an adequate clearing balance at the Reserve Bank. Section 16 authorizes the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to act as a central clearinghouse for the Reserve Banks, thereby providing a mechanism for nationwide collection and clearing.

**The deferred availability principle.** On the basis of this legislation, the Board of Governors defined the operational characteristics of its check collection system in Federal Reserve Regulation J. It is important to recognize that the procedures set in motion directly reflected the Board's objectives with respect to bank reserves. Prior to 1914, a sizeable percentage of bank reserves took the form of balances at correspondent banks in the large cities and towns. When collecting an item for an outlying respondent, the correspondent bank commonly credited the respondent's account upon receipt of the item even though it might be impossible to collect the item for several days. Hence, a hefty proportion of total bank reserves at any given time was in fact nothing more than uncollected balances, or "float." The Board was determined, in designing the new collection system and its accounting procedures, to reduce float to manageable levels. Initially, the Reserve Banks, upon receipt of an item, immediately credited the collecting bank's account and immediately debited the drawee bank's account. The drawee bank learned of its reserve loss when it received the item, several days later in the case of outlying banks. This situation complicated the reserve management problem for many banks, and the practice was quickly abandoned. The alternative procedure selected was to defer credit for items drawn on banks remote from the collecting Federal Reserve office. Each Reserve Bank established a deferment schedule based roughly on the average time required to collect items in particular portions of its district and elsewhere. This deferred availability principle is in many respects the cornerstone of the existing Federal Reserve collection system. Many of the efforts to improve the system over the years, including the current trend toward regional clearing centers, have aimed at paring collection time in order to compress deferment schedules. Conversely, the extent to which these schedules have in fact contracted is an appropriate indicator of the substantive improvements actually achieved.

Creation of the Federal Reserve collection system constituted an application of the clearing principle to specific regions throughout the nation and, as such, extended the benefits produced earlier by the Boston plan over a much broader area. Nonetheless, there is considerable room for improvement. The next section describes how the system currently operates and attempts to pinpoint the weak spots.

THE HISTORY AND COLLECTING OF CHECKS - SLIDE PROGRAM

New Members and Old Members who have not taken advantage of the use of this slide set for a local program are invited to do so. Many of our members have taken this opportunity to show this informative presentation to their local club. It has received many enthusiastic comments from viewers. Make your reservations to show it to your local club - NOW! This quality show is a pleasing way to tell the story of checks and check collecting to your collector friends.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESERVING THE HISTORY AND COLLECTING OF CHECKS

1. Send all requests for reservations to Mr. Brent Hughes  
(Do not request from your editor) 3230 Nealon Drive  
Falls Church, Va. 22042
2. Give exact address to which slides are to be shipped. The slide set can be shipped only to an individual member of CCRT, not to an organization name only.
3. No charge will be made for the use of the slide program. Borrower is asked to pay postal charges both ways - approximately \$2.00.
4. Borrower should give first choice of show dates, plus an alternate date in case the slide set is all booked. Every effort will be made to arrange shipment to meet the first choice of dates. A return label will be included so that no mistake can occur.
5. If a slide (slides) is accidentally damaged while showing, please indicate this fact (naming which slides) so that a new one can be made to replace it before the set is re-shipped to the next borrower.

A narrative will be included which will explain each slide. No knowledge of the subject matter is necessary in order to present the program.

All slides in the program were made to professional standards by our prominent numismatist member, Mr. Brent Hughes. Reserve this program for your local club today -you and the members who will see it will be happy you did.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNSOLICITED MATERIAL RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

"Unordered Merchandise, Consumer Bulletin No. 2" is the title of a small publication produced by the Federal Trade Commission. In part it states: "There are only two kinds of merchandise that legally can be sent through the mails to a person without his consent or agreement:

- \* Free samples which are clearly and conspicuously marked as such.
- \* Merchandise mailed by a charitable organization soliciting contributions.

In either case you can consider the merchandise as a gift if you like. In all other instances, it is illegal to send merchandise to someone unless he has previously requested it".

Full information on this subject is covered in this bulletin with a listing of offices complaints may be reported to. Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. 4pp, price 10¢.

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Articles, research projects, personal experiences, news items, clippings and any other material related to our hobby are always welcome.



## ----- CHECK REFERENCE MATERIAL -----

Articles that have appeared in various publications on some phase (or related phase) of check collecting are listed below. All items, copy or illustrations are related to our interests. Items you may find are welcome for reporting here - send them in!

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Issue date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page #</u>
Coin World	June 27 1972	Check Worth Zero, Zero... Illustrated check drawn on Wells Fargo Bank for Zero amount, sent as a notice on nonpayment of a claim.	52
Coin World	June 27 1972	Feature 'Tax Saver' Checks Illustrated "Tax Saver" check as appears in original form on page 90 of Issue #14 of TCL.	61
The Exchange Magazine (Published by New York Stock Exchange)	May 72	The Money Supply And Your Money Supply Tells how money supply is effected by actions of the Federal Reserve bank, time and demand deposits etc.	11
Western Treasures	Mar. 73	Check Into These Relics Discusses the various aspects of check collecting and types of checks collected.	30
The Wall Street Journal	May 23, 1973	Senate Votes to Restrict NOW Accounts To the Two Originating States for a Year Contents as title indicates - see further report on this subject at end of this column	6
American Revenuer	Vol 27 No. 6 June 73	"Stamp" On Stamp Similar to article in this issue of TCL regarding "cut-square" bank checks, this one also by CCRT member George Story, Sr. relative to an RM imprint overprinted with a design to affix a revenue stamp.	93
U.S. News & World Report	Apr. 16 1973	Catching On Now Among Collectors Gives the various interests in collect-stock and bond certificates. Notes it is only a question of time before certificates are no longer used, interest in artists and fine engravings evidenced in vignettes, autograph interests, interest in a particular industry and those who seek certificates that may still have some value. (This article reported by 3 members)	124
Coin Mart	Spring 1973	A "Checkered" Career - Ed Alexander Specializes in A Fascinating Money World Illustrated and gives interesting details relative to now CCRT member Ed Alexander's check collection.	26

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CHECK REFERENCE MATERIAL (Cont'd.)

<u>Publication</u>	<u>Issue date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page #</u>
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine	May 73	Dorsey's \$800 Bank of US Check (Illustrated and Chinese Sign Helena, Montana, Note (signed in Chinese) and also illustrated.	494
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine	June 73	Lee Hewitt Writes Checks from Yacht Illustrated personal check of prominent numismatist and former editor of Scrapbook. Check pictures Mr. Hewitt aboard his yacht.	522
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine	June 73	Oregon City, Oregon Territory Warrant Illustrated is a treasury warrant of Oregon City, Oregon Territory, dated Nov. 28, 1846 in the amount of \$11.95.	570
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine	June 73	Numismatic Oriented Stocks Article lists all current firms in the numismatic related, precious metal, or financial fields that are of interest to collectors. Listed are the names of the concerns, Ticker Symbol, Shares outstanding and Price range Apr. 2, Apr. 25 & May 15, 1973. Concerns in the Precious Metals Mining field, South African Gold Mining, Precious Metals Refining & Fabricating, Numismatic Firms, Security Printers and Banking Financial and Credit Card are listed in that order.	574
Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine	June 73	Numismatics of 'Old Alabama' Continued from Jan. 73 issue. To be continued.	582
The Numismatist (Official publication of the American Numismatic Association)	June 73	Why Collect Checks (Checks <u>Can</u> Tell an Interesting Story) A very interesting factual story that associates the checks illustrated with the Cresson Mine in Cripple Creek. This article was produced by CCRT Member Mr. William C. Henderson. A great gold mine story.	933
The Canadian Numismatic Journal	Apr. 73	"Bancardchek" Issues Of Canadian Chartered Banks The first paragraph of this illustrated article states: "Used in conjunction with a Bancardchek Identification Card carrying number and specimen signature, the Bancardchek is completed by the customer at time of use by entering an exact amount up to a specified maximum, and endorsing and entering card number on a declaration on reverse". It then clears as a personal check and payment is guaranteed. Article gives further details, descriptions and is illustrated. Produced by CCRT Member Don Allen.	116



## CHECK REFERENCE MATERIAL (Cont'd )

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<u>Publication</u>	<u>Issue date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page #</u>
World Coins	Dec 1969	Italy's Emergency Notes of 1966 Notes that among the emergency notes issued were checks. In part the article states: "When the coins disappeared from circulation, business houses all over the nation started buying packets of preprinted bank checks and circulating these without endorsement". Gives many further details and is illustrated.	934
The Ration Board (Official publication of Society of Ration Token Collectors)	Vol 8 #1 Mar. 73	Ration Banking Program - Taken from Banking Manual of 1944 Brief summary of the program giving purposes and outline. Included are illustrations of some of the deposit slips and ration checks used. (Full information will be in next issue of TCL on Society of Ration Token Collectors & publication)	6

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

The new 1973 editions of the IOWA and NEBRASKA Bank Directories are now available. These books list every bank in each state, all the officers and pertinent financial figures, telephone numbers, Zip codes and population of cities and towns. Each state is bound separately, so be sure to specify which book you are ordering.

Iowa Bank Directory is \$6.00 per copy

Nebraska Bank Directory is \$5.00 per copy

Order from Northwestern Banker, 306 Fifteenth St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309

- 0 -

"These Swiss Money Men" authored by Ray Vicker of London office of The Wall Street Journal has been released by Charles Scribner's Sons of New York. Vicker has covered the activities of these Swiss bankers for some twelve years and acquainted with a goodly number of them reveals in his book how they operate and how money under their jurisdiction is invested. Also covered in the book is an account of the 1971 monetary crisis, how the secrecy of Swiss banking is changing and an analysis of the future of the dollar and gold are also included. Cost is \$7.95 from your book dealer.

- 0 -

Omitted from publication listing above... American Revenuer (Journal of the American Revenue Association. Vol. 27, No.5, Whole #255, May 1973, Page 79

The better part of this issue is devoted to various revenue issues of America's early days. Of particular interest are the revenues of the First Federal Issue, Second Federal Issue and Third Federal Issue as they pertain to bonds, bills of exchange, certificate shares etc. Illustrated are some of the various tax impressions and tax amounts are listed and given for various documents or instruments.

If you have interests in this area, membership in the American Revenue Association would be of value to you. Contact Bruce Miller, 1010 South Fifth Ave., Arcadia, Calif. 91006, Secretary Treasurer who can furnish you the necessary information.

- 0 -

For those interested in Autographs the following listed books may be to your liking; some have been previously listed, others have not -

AUTOGRAPHS: A KEY TO COLLECTING by Mary A. Benjamin.

Contents - The more than 300 pages of this book graphically present the history of autograph collecting - tell you how and what to collect - where to buy - how to detect

## CHECK REFERENCE MATERIAL (Cont'd.)

forgeries - explain hidden and confused identities - describe famous finds and interesting letters - give the terminology of autograph collecting and pointers on evaluation - and, finally, how to preserve and care for old letters. Thirty-five plates contain seventy-five important facsimiles. Newly Added - a selected list of reference works relating to autographs, as well as biographical and historical studies which should prove helpful. In her Preface to the Reissue, Miss Benjamin's comments on important changes and developments in autographs bring the book up to date. \$5.95 from Walter R. Benjamin Autographs, 790 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021.

The following three books are authored by Charles Hamilton:

Collecting Autographs and Manuscripts (new edition, June 1970)

This big, revised 287 page book covers every aspect of buying, selling, and collecting autographs. There are chapters on forgeries and proxy signatures. Western heroes, Presidents, American Judaica, Napoleon, kings, tyrants (from Ivan the Terrible to Hitler), American and British authors, franking signatures, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and many other popular collecting fields. Of special value are the nearly one thousand facsimiles. In this brand-new edition are many additional illustrations, including genuine and autopen signatures of John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon. "An immensely readable and entertaining book with tremendous appeal...written with wit and verve."-Los Angeles Times. \$9.50

Scribblers & Scoundrels (1968)

This copiously illustrated 282 page volume is an exciting new account of Hamilton's adventures with manuscript thieves and his skirmishes with the FBI. It includes lively discussions of proxy signatures and the Autopen, with biographical sketches of the most notorious forgers of history. Especially important for the collector is the section on "tricks of the trade", with chapters on how to get rarities for the price of a postage stamp, the art of buying from dealers, how to bid at auctions, and how to collect for investment or profit. \$6.95.

The Robot That Helped To Make A President (1965)

A fascinating probe into one of the most amazing devices of modern times...the Autopen. There are 130 line illustrations and 14 photographs by which Hamilton graphically solves the mystery of John F. Kennedy's signature - certainly one of the most baffling scrawls of modern times. With many examples of Kennedy's writing at all periods during his life and with facsimiles of his seven robot signatures and 14 different secretarial signatures. Limited edition. \$7.50

The above three books available from Charles Hamilton Galleries, Inc., 25 East 77th St., New York, N.Y. 10021

- 0 -

For many years Professor Harold Don Allen has participated in the ANA National Coin Week and this year was no exception. One of the products of his efforts this year was the publication of an attractive brochure which included pertinent information relative to this year's participation. The front and back covers of the brochure were overprinted with numerous old checks which formed the background for the cover with the title "Coin Week 1973". Don stated, "My COIN WEEK this year is wholly built around cheques. 50-odd cheques, 18th century to modern are on exhibit for two weeks at the local Bank of Montreal branch. Don's booklet would be of value to those contemplating entering next year's ANA Coin Week as it gives the detailed coverage to the area covered. Early Maritime Bank Checks are illustrated on the last page. Prof. Don Allen, Faculty, Nova Scotia Teachers College, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.

- 0 -

A History of the Farmers Trust Co. of Lancaster 1810-1910. Lancaster 1910. 228 pp. 4s. Many illus., incl. notes & documents..Fine...\$10.50 (by Frank R. Diffendorffer)

A Century of Banking in New York. 1822-1922. by Henry W. Lanier. N.Y. 1922. 341pp. Many illus. Much general banking history...\$13.50.

Above 2 books recently listed by C.E. Bullowa, 1616 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 or your local book dealer. (Cont'd. next page)



The Presidents of the United States - A Survey of Autograph Values - 1965 by Mary A. Benjamin.

Brochure, 40pp. 8vo. A current study of Presidential autographs from Washington to L.B. Johnson, with special emphasis on rarity, demand, quality, and values. With chronological chart showing dates of birth, death, and terms of office by day, month, and year. An invaluable guide to this expanding field. Price \$2.00. Available from Walter R. Benjamin Autographs, 790 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021.

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#### NEGOTIABLE ORDERS OF WITHDRAWAL (NOW)

##### CURTAINED BY HOUSE, SENATE ACTION

Issue #14 of TCL contained an actual sample of this controversial savings account type "check" (NOW). According to a report in the May 23, 1973 issue of the Wall Street Journal, their chance of spreading to other than the original two states, where they first appeared, is just about gone.

The WSJ reports the Senate by a vote of 43 to 33, approved legislation to allow Mutual Savings Banks in Massachusetts and New Hampshire only, to continue using NOW's. This Senate action bars use of NOW's in all other states through June 1, 1974.

In an earlier session the House of Representatives took tougher action and voted to outlaw NOW'S in all states. In an upcoming House-Senate conference their differences will be worked out although some close to the scene believe the House may go along with the Senate version believing it is quite restrictive in itself.

Greatest opposition to NOW accounts came from Savings and Loan Associations and Commercial banks which are not permitted to pay interest on accounts upon which checks may be drawn.

The Senate version of the bill would give the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation the right to regulate interest paid on NOW accounts. At present Mutual Banks are regulated by the states.

- 0 -

#### EARLY BANKING HISTORY IN MONTANA TERRITORY

##### LAST CHANCE GULCH BECOMES STATE CAPITAL

##### CHECKS AS CURRENCY IN EARLY MONTANA

The April 1973 issue of the BANK NOTE REPORTER carried the above three captions to its two and a half full page article on early Montana financial history authored by Maurice M. Bargett of Belleville, Ill.

This interesting article touches on the early beginnings of territory status, through the Gold Rush period and gives mention to the many various banking institutions that provided service during those hectic days, including the well known L.H. Hershfield operation. The banking institutions that operated the Montana Territory are listed by towns: Helena and Virginia, Virginia City, Deer Lodge, Fort Benton, Bozeman, Missoula, Butte City, Miles City and Helena.

The informative writeup includes numerous illustrations some of which illustrate L.H. Hershfield drafts, Peoples National Bank of Helena, certificates of deposit, Last Chance Gulch, main street of Helena, Montana (still called that today) and unused Holladay Overland Mail and Express Company check.

Bank Note Reporter, among other things, covers all facets of "paper" numismatics. Subscription - \$3.00 per year, two years for \$5.00, from Col. Grover Criswell, Citra, Florida 32627

Reference Material (Cont'd. next page)

\* \* \* \* \*

Members are the life blood of all organizations -

Invite your friends to join CORT

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MEMBERS ADD TO REFERENCE FILE

CCRT wishes to thank and congratulate member Daphney L. Dailey of Bowling Green, Virginia who has recently sent two soft cover books that she authored to be used for our reference file.

THE FIRST SEVENTY YEARS 1902-1972 - A History of UNION BANK & TRUST COMPANY is an interesting presentation of the early and growing years of this bank to the present time. Intermixed within the bank's history is other related and important items of historical significance which makes for enjoyable reading. The work is further enhanced with numerous photos. Undoubtedly much time went into research of the facts presented and obtaining the numerous old photographs. The presentation is 80 pages in length.

Ms. Dailey's second volume is produced from a memorial service, BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, Caroline County, Virginia, MEMORIAL SERVICE, May 10, 1970- DOCUMENTING A FUNERAL SERVICE HELD IN THIS CHURCH on May 11, 1863 for GENERAL THOMAS JONATHAN "STONEWALL" JACKSON, Published on May 1, 1971 by FRIENDS OF BETHEL CHURCH. This publication is edited by Daphney L. Dailey in the form of a 35 page book. The book is filled with accounts of Jackson's historical Civil War activities and is of special interest to Civil War buffs. Besides accounts of war action it lists name and rank of men who died, surrendered etc (Company E, 30th Va. Infantry).

A special thanks to Ms. Dailey for sending these welcome autographed copies.

- 0 -

In the interests of CCRT, member Neil Sowards of Fort Wayne, Indiana has forwarded us an excellent five-part article for our reference file. The article appeared in the "West Virginia Hillbilly" during 1972 which deals with early banking in West Virginia.

The introduction to the article states the following about the author, "Victor Deloe is by profession, an X-ray technician. His hobby, however, is something different. He is an expert on money and banking in West Virginia. At the request of the editor of the West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Mr. Deloe has prepared us some source material in the following article which will run over the next few weeks."

The article starts with the first attempt at banking in West Virginia and gives information on the first banks. Part II deals with the Civil War Period, 1860-1865; Part III covers State Banking from 1865-1970; Part IV deals with National Banking from 1863-1971 and Part V is on the subject of Private Scrip. The work provides excellent reference material, includes some illustrations.

- 0 -

Hopefully in due time CCRT will have a circulating reference library and material will be on a loan basis for all our members. We also have some additional material sent in previously by other members. Your editor has been acting as "keeper" of this material until such time as we may have a working library. With the limited time your editor has, it is next to impossible to act as librarian at present, however should any of the above be of exceeding value to you for research or producing a numismatic work, the necessary time will be taken to see the material is available to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

SEND IN YOUR AUCTION BID NOW! GOOD MATERIAL NEEDED FOR OUR AUCTIONS!



WHAT MEMBERS ARE DOING AND SAYING

Urgent - Need any/all details on J.C. Palmer, Treasurer, Sharps Rifle Mfg. Co. I have two Promissory Notes issued in Hartford, signed by Palmer which I would like to use for a short article. I would appreciate any details on Palmer, if any is known, and also does the company still make guns? Also any historical facts about the company would be welcome. "Their Name Made History" is the proposed title of this article. Please send any information you may have to Vincent Pearson, 39 Skip Ave., Southport, Lancashire PR9 8JP, England.

- O -

Letter Received: Lynn, Mass., April 27, 1973. Dear Editor: Regarding the Check Exchange, I was told by a man from Buidji, Minn. to try it. You know the old saying, "try it you may like it", well I want to say here and now I did try it and did like it very, very much. I can say that I was treated more than fair ----- what a very pleasant surprise I got when the checks came back from the Exchange for the ones I had sent in.

Now here and right now let me say, if you have not tried it, do so. I'm sure that you'll like it as I did. I also think that Mr. Ray H. Rathjen who has taken on this job should get a big hand for the very nice job he is doing. I myself can't say enough good about the trade that he made for me with what I had sent him. He is very fair.

Let me also say that if you have a few extra of one kind or another, send him a few extras so as he'll have a few extras to work with. I'm sure you'll never be sorry you did. TRY IT, I'M SURE YOU'LL LIKE IT... Frank G. Burke, 31 Merrill Ave., Lynn, Mass. 01902

- O -

Member Bob Richards of Baltimore, Md. reports he exhibited a sampling of his check collection at the Catonsville Library Hobby Show. Those who viewed his display were quite fascinated.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHECK EXCHANGE NEWS

Ray Rathjen (CCRT #12) 4047 Graham St., Pleasanton, California 94566

Are you tired of looking at the same Old Dogs? I mean the checks you don't want to put in your display books! Are they gathering dust in a little pile down in the corner of the bottom shelf or desk drawer? Tell you what - Just lift about 20 or so off the top of the pile and send them to me and I'll send you some clean ones to put back on the pile and keep it neat. Who knows, you might even find one that "turns you on". Better yet, send me some nice ones and get some nice ones in exchange. YOU CAN'T LOSE! If you are not pleased just send them back for another trade. We still have some of those beauties left that were listed in TCL #14.

For this Exchange Service to be of value, more of you members must use it! That includes you old "pros" too!

(Editor's note)- Ray has tried very hard to make this a club asset for the good of all members. If you have not made use of this unique feature- try it now, how can you lose?

Ray has another project going that should be of interest to all members- and needs your participation - See next page.

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Jul. 73

## SECURITY PRINTERS

In the October 1972 issue of TCL, page 177, under the title of "Bank Note Companies", Ray Rathjen started to compile a list of printers of "Security Paper" - checks, bank notes, stock certificates, bonds, etc. Ray request-  
members to send in their list of printers taken from material in their  
own collections. A number of members have responded and sent their lists  
of information. It is hoped still more members will send Ray additions  
to this listing so as to make it as complete as possible. September 30,  
1973 has been set as the cutoff date to receive material for this initial  
listing and when compiled all information obtained to date will be pub-  
lished seperately in booklet form. As needs dictate, it will be updated  
with new additions and corrections.

Thanks to Ray's efforts we'll have another reference tool that should be  
of value not only to TCL members, but to bank note collectors and in some  
cases, revenue stamp collectors.

A goodly amount of time and effort has already gone into this project and  
it is hoped that if you have not already sent Ray your listings - they  
are welcome now! Send the following information to Ray taken from  
material in your collection or other reference works:

1. Name and address (exactly) of printer as imprinted on particular in-  
strument.
2. Earliest and latest date found on your material.
3. Type of material printed: checks, notes, stock or bond certificates,  
or other (describe).

Send this requested information to: Ray Rathjen, 4047 Graham St.,  
Pleasanton, Calif. 94566

### Short Report -

Present work on this listing reveals printing companies that were listed  
most often on all the lists sent in, including the compiler's, are in  
order of frequency listed below:

(Dates not final)

Mann, Wm.	1869-1905	Philadelphia
Corlies, Macy & Co.	1868-1909	New York
Siebert, Henry & Bros.	1862-1882	New York
Hall, J.C. & Co.	1885-1910	Providence, R.I. & San Francisco
Britton & Rey, Litho.	1876	San Francisco
Gast, A. & Co.	1881-1901	St. Louis & New York
Murphy's Sons(Wm.F.)	1870-1895	Philadelphia
Union Litho. Co.	1898-1929	San Francisco.

Ray concludes this short report with this comment, "I think it would be  
great if we could get someone in these areas to do a little research on  
these companies". Any takers? Let Ray know.

\* \* \* \* \*

### TEXAS STATE BANK OFFERS 24 HOUR HUMAN TELLER

Reported in the Wall Street Journal - In spite of competitors offering  
electronic service twenty-four hours a day, Texas State Bank in Austin  
believes their customers like the personal service offered by a human  
teller round the clock and besides they can sell savings bonds, accept  
payments for utilities and transact certain other business that is not  
possible as yet with electronic service. Ø



Undoubtedly by the time this issue reaches you the important event, announced by a special notice mailed with auction #15, will have taken place - the filing of incorporation papers and nomination and election of CCRT's first officers and board of directors.

Hopefully the date of Saturday August 25, 1973 will be recorded as one of the most important dates of this growing organization; on that date CCRT members present at the meeting will have their first opportunity to nominate and elect officers under our newly filed incorporation papers. I am informed by Mr. Duphorne, who is spearheading this work, that the actual date for filing will be about August 10, 1973 as he states, "....this is because New Mexico law requires that the first meeting of the Board of Directors be held within 30 days from the date of incorporation. This timing will work perfectly for the AN.A. show". It should be noted that all election of officers in future years will be accomplished by mail ballot so all members may have a voice, no matter how distant they may live from the site of the annual meeting.

It is hoped we'll have a large attendance of members, and among them a goodly number who will not only accept the nomination to run for office, but if elected, to man that office with vigor and enthusiasm. We must have active, working officers to carry CCRT forward!

As most of you well know we have struggled along with just a certain number of active members, to be specific, Larry Adams as Membership Secretary, Jack Weaver as Auction Manager and Vincent Pearson our CCRT European Representative. To this list we also add Professor H. Don Allen and William Heald and other members who have and are manning our special programs, plus the additional increasing number of members who have furthered the cause of CCRT with their articles, book reviews, research, etc. A number of these persons have acted in an advisor capacity also - in helping your editor run the behind the scenes work of this organization with their ideas and suggestions for the betterment of CCRT. It is impossible to name each and every person who has contributed to the advancement of CCRT in some way, however let it be known that every member's contribution is deeply appreciated.

Despite all this welcome and splendid help, the actual running of CCRT has been left totally to your editor and his wife and we have tried to do this to the best of our ability, however there is a limit to the endurance and the amount of time available to take care of all the absolutely necessary details and do it efficiently.

Since the inception of CCRT, your editor is a few years older, working harder and longer hours at his place of employment and his personal obligations and responsibilities have increased. To continue to publish TCL and strive to increase its interest, is more than a full-time job in itself. For the good of CCRT's efficient operation, and for the good health of your editor and his wife, responsibilities for running CCRT must be accomplished by others if CCRT is to survive - the job is too big for a one man/wife operation. This is not to say we don't want to do a still better job with TCL and should members present at our coming meeting in Boston so desire, your editor and his wife will accept "at large" director positions so there may be an orderly transition of business as directors and officers take over the various duties in the operation of CCRT. If for no other reason, CCRT should and must be operated as a formal, chartered organization so that (Cont'd. next page)

15. 1700 Jul 75

it may perpetuate itself in the years to come.

While your editor has tried to keep our "loosely knit" organization as democratic as possible, the job of running such an organization should be done by a board of dedicated member/officers so that any questions, problems, disputes, suggestions and policy changes can be discussed and acted upon officially - this time has come! Many important and sometimes delicate decisions must be made - more than one person should do this. A board can weigh the suggestions and ideas offered by members, and is in a far better position to settle disputes. There are numerous records that must be kept and sometimes an event or series of events dictate a change in former policy - again best handled by a full board. The total sum of running all the operations of CCRT is quite large, but when divided among a number of officers and board members the smaller segments can become little time consuming and satisfying jobs.

We must succeed in obtaining a full set of officers and directors at this Boston meeting! With the conclusion of a successful meeting, results will be published in the October issue of TCL and all members will in due time be sent a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws.

It has taken us a number of years to reach this point and we are indebted to Robert Duphorne for spearheading this project with the able assistance of William Heald and Arthur Curths, all of Albuquerque, New Mexico. All members, excepting one, of the initial Incorporation Committee (formed at the New Orleans A.N.A., CCRT meeting) have had "working copies" of the proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws in order that they might offer suggestions, ideas and comments. All of these suggestions have been considered and most have been included in our official set of incorporation papers. To these gentlemen, A SINCERE THANK YOU for a job well done! - IT IS NOW UP TO THE MEMBERS TO CARRY THIS FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. It is your editor's hope that in the next issue of TCL he can report all director/officer seats are filled with enthusiastic working members.

In the interest of brevity, I'll conclude this report with as few words as possible.

Unfortunately my plea for a CCRT PR (publicity) person(s) to accept the responsibility of keeping the various national collector publications informed of news and happenings of CCRT (where a large percentage of our new members learn of CCRT - and join!) batted a big, fat "ZERO". It is vital we have this publicity position filled as quickly as possible. Really the job is not all that difficult or time consuming. Any takers?

A happier note - Our CCRT informal meeting at Peoria, Ill. brought together the following members: Courtney Coffing, Mrs. Adolph Hill, Mrs. Phillip Budd, Mr. & Mrs. Horstman, Jack Vorhies, Paul Garland, guest Adna Wilde, of course your editor and his wife were there also. Because of pending work on incorporation procedures taking place, those present were brought up to date on its progress. A brief financial report was given (full one in next issue) and the remainder of the time was used for general discussion and social visiting. This Central States Convention was another great show where hospitality prevailed. A tip of the cap to its General Chairman Oliver Horton and his staff and to David L. Cooper, President of CSNA. We were glad to attend and meet old friends.

As this is written, the Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc. 14th Annual Convention is fast drawing near. As noted in the last issue, (Cont'd. next pg)



TOO LATE FOR LISTING ELSEWHERE IN ISSUE -

CCRT member M. Tiitus, well known World Paper Currency dealer and publisher of PAPER TIGER, monthly letter pertaining to Paper Documents, announces that he now has a prepared pricelist which features checks and travellers' checks as well as Paper Money of the World.

SAMPLE OF OFFERINGS FROM CURRENT LIST

W.A. Clark & Brother (Butte, Montana) 1898 (red printing)U. \$2.75  
Second Nat'l Bank (Freeport, Ill) 1867 (boy engraving a "coin")  
Western Engraving Co., Chicago; 5¢ adhesive with G W.....U \$3.75  
Poudre Valley Bank (Ft. Collins, Colo) 1899 (brown) 2¢/Lib. VF+ \$2.50  
First N.B. (Cheyenne, Wyoming) 1885 grey paper VF \$1.75  
USA: Perera Express Travelcheck (Traveller's Check)(NY)\$20 bk, \$50  
blue U. \$8.75

Full listing available from M. Tiitus, Box 259, Menlo Park, Calif. 94025

- O -

January 21, 1974, 9-Day Jet Cruise to Middle East

Dr. and Mrs. Allan Hauck (CCRT #339) are escorting a nine-day Middle East Cruise from Milwaukee on January 21, 1974. Cruise participants will fly to Cyprus where they will board a ship which will serve as their hotel for the Middle Eastern travel. They will visit the birthplace of St. Paul in Tarsus (Turkey), Beirut in Lebanon, Damascus in Syria, and all the major Christian sites in Israel before returning to Cyprus for their plane home.

The whole tour sells for only \$799 from Milwaukee back to Milwaukee. In addition to years of experience in numismatics and philately, Dr. and Mrs. Hauck have lived in Europe and the Middle East and have escorted twelve tours to the area. If you are interested, write Dr. Allan Hauck, Post Office Box 176, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141, for a detailed brochure.

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\* EDITOR'S NOTES (Cont'd. from preceding page) \*  
President Paul L. Garland has invited CCRT to attend for a meeting. I sincerely hope a number of our members will avail themselves of this invitation. Your editor and his wife have tried to fit this show into their schedule but employment responsibilities will keep us from attending. We thank Pres. Garland for his invitation, hope we have a number of CCRT members in attendance and above all, wish BRNA a most successful convention and show. Convention dates are August 2-5, 1973 at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center, Birmingham, Alabama.

In the past several issues I have made comments concerning the printing of TCL. The first 20 pages of last issue were printed and a flop in my estimation, yet cost several times that of having them mimeographed. In further investigation with several other printers, it was their opinion it was a poor printing job and they seemed to feel that with our present methods of producing TCL with good FAX (electric) stencils we can get optimum quality commensurate to our budget and equal to, or in some cases, better reproduction than with the cheaper methods of printing. Only slick paper, offset lithography and use of type would give us a really better product. Recent developments now allow FAX stencils to pick up halftones and shading. For the present we'll continue to use mimeograph and continue to investigate.

HOPE YOU ARE HAVING A GREAT SUMMER!



# NEIL SOWARDS

548 Home Avenue


Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807

(219) 745-3658

CHECKS! CHECKS! CHECKS! BEAUTIFUL CHECKS

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Key: Vignette underlined RS-Revenue Stamp  
RI-Revenue Imprint w-with NB-National Bank  
Rt-Right Lt-Left



All checks pre 1910 unless indicated.

Bank of the United States, Boston, Mass. 1799 \$45.00

Roscommon, Mich.-Opera House Check 1890's 50¢

Romeo, Mich. FNB Small pyramid & Ark on end. Orange-RS-\$1.00

Tawas City, Mich. Unused 190 Three Deer \$1.00

Marietta, Ohio. FNB. Oil well Grey on Pink 1900's \$4.00

New York. Fifth N.B. Bank 1870's Pink or Purple \$1.00

Aurora, N.Y. Promissory Note. Grey 1860's Ship ornate end \$1.00

New York-Benai Berith 1890's RS. \$1.00

Washington, D.C. Sergeant at Arms-House of Rep. 1910's

Capitol in Brown Background \$1.00 each 10 for \$5.00

100 Mixed Vignette Checks (Pre 1910) \$20.00

100 Different Checks (good variety, some post 1910) \$15.00

20 Different checks from new Hoards \$5.00

8 Different Athens, Ohio checks (3 RI) \$2.00

7 Different McArthur, Ohio checks (3 vignettes) \$3.00

Bonds

10 Different beautiful Ft. Wayne Bonds. \$15.00

10 Different Beautiful Railroad Stock Certificates \$15.00

SHEETS AND SINGLES

Civil War-Penn. Militia Unused on Farmer's & Merchants Bk. Phil. 186

Red on Green Penn. shield across end. Sheet of 5-\$12.00 Single \$2.50

Helena. Mont. 18 FNB Unused Geyser, hot springs and water fall,

Bank note quality. Single \$3.00 Sheet of 4 \$10.00

Pittsburgh, Pa. Farmers Dep. N.B. Unused 187 Blue with revenue-

like vignette of their products in orange. Single \$2.50

Sheet of 5 \$10.00

Pittsburgh, Pa. Schulze & Emmanuel Unused 188 Blue picture of

lumber yard. Single \$2.00 Sheet of 4 \$7.50

Salem, Va. Chadwick Two Wheeler Check 189 Vignette of seven of their

products. Single \$2.00 Sheet of 4 \$7.50

Chadwick Two Wheeler Unused receipts. Large orange vignettes of buggy

and horse in background 189 Single \$2.00 Sheet of 5 \$8.00

WANTED-Write First

Pre 1910 Vignetted checks - Pay \$10 to \$15 per 100 or trade even.

Also Checks with Canal Vignettes



BUY SELL



United States Coins, Bank Notes, Foreign Coins and Notes  
Tokens of All Kinds, Ancient Coins, Checks, Bonds, Stock